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Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-175 CONTENTS *11 September 1995*

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Iranian, Syrian, Turkish Ministers Discuss Iraq 1
  Statement Issued Opposing Division of Iraq *[IRNA]* 1
  Further on Joint Statement *[Damascus Radio]* 1
  Ministers Hold News Conference *[IRNA]* 1
  Baghdad Reports News Conference *[INA]* 2
  Iran's Velayati, Turkey's Inonu Meet *[IRNA]* 2
  Syria's al-Shar', Inonu View Ties *[Damascus Radio]* 3
  Iran's Rafsanjani Meets Ministers *[IRNA]* 3
  Rafsanjani, al-Shar' Discuss Issues *[IRNA]* 3
  Rafsanjani, Inonu Hold Meeting *[IRNA]* 3
Rabin Opens Jerusalem Conference on Tourism *[Jerusalem Radio]* 4
  Criticizes Russia, PRC on Nuclear Issue *[Jerusalem Radio]* 4

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Trade Confederation Asks Libya To Halt Expulsions *[AFP]* 4
Arab League To Observe Algerian Elections *[Cairo Radio]* 5

Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Asks Libya Not To Expel Palestinians *[AFP]* 5
Qaddumi Fails To Convince Libya To End Deportations *[VOL]* 5
PLO Fears Expulsions To Create New 'Boat People' *[AFP]* 5
'Arafat Returns to 'Homeland' From Taba Talks *[Jericho VOP]* 6
'Arafat Urges Arabs To 'Salvage Peace Process' *[Jericho VOP]* 6
'Draft' of Agreement Between PA, Hamas Reported *[AL-AHRAM 5 Sep]* 6
  Hamas Official Denies Report *[Tehran Radio]* 7
Fatah Condemns Israeli Killing of Palestinian *[Jericho VOP]* 7
Armed Men Kidnap 'Fatah Hawks' Member *[AFP]* 7
Al-Shaqaqi Hospitalized, Advised To Resign *[Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI 8 Sep]* 7

Arab-Israeli Talks

Joint Control of Hebron Government Building Proposed *[Jerusalem TV]* 8
  Paper Details Israeli Proposal *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 10 Sep]* 8
Powers Handed Over to PA; Israeli Official Comments *[Jerusalem Radio]* 11
Israel, Jordan, PA Approve Study on Water *[MENA]* 12

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Dembri: Presidential Elections Slated for 16 Nov *[MENA]* 13
    Speaks on Elections, Arab Issues *[Algiers Radio]* 13
Benhamouda Not To Participate in Elections *[Algiers Radio]* 13
Zeroual Addresses National Commission for Elections *[Algiers Radio]* 13
Benmansour Discusses Election Procedures, Practices *[MENA]* 14
Television Journalist, Wife Shot Dead *[Algiers Radio]* 14
Newspapers To Strike Over Journalists' Murders *[Algiers Radio]* 14

Egypt

'Arafat Briefs Mubarak on Talks With Israel *[Jericho VOP]* 15
Council Blames Israel for POW Killings *[MENA]* 15
Buses Carrying Palestinians Cross Border From Libya *[MENA]* 16
Asylum Offer to Saddam, U.S. Scenario Viewed *[ROSE AL-YUSUF 4 Sep]* 16
Ministry Unaware of Defector's Request To Visit *[MENA]* 17
Al-Alfi Denies Rumors of 'Terrorist' Camps in Uganda *[AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I 5 Sep]* 17
Wali: Sudan Refuses To Hand Over Suspects *[MENA]* 18
Editor Lists Options for 'Punishing' Sudan *[AL-MUSAWWAR 8 Sep]* 18
'Amr Musa Returns From Paris Meetings on Bosnia *[MENA]* 18
    Newspaper Attacks Yeltsin's Position *[MENA]* 18
Musa Views African Mechanism Meeting *[MENA]* 19
New 'Terrorist' Organization Members Arrested *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 6 Sep]* 19
Brotherhood 'Denounces' Military Court Referrals *[AL-SHA'B 5 Sep]* 20
    Four Members Arrested for Leaflets *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 6 Sep]* 20
Mubarak Visits Defense Minister in Hospital *[MENA]* 20

Libya

Border Tightened, Arabs Deported in 'Security Alert' *[London AL-QUDS Al-'ARABI 7 Sep]* . 21
Authorities Reportedly Expel 7,000 Egyptian Workers *[London MBC TV]* 21
'Hundreds' Flee Police Crackdown on Foreigners *[AFP]* 21
'Draconian' Measures Reported Against Fundamentalists *[Paris International]* 22
Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Masses on 'Spies, Traitors' *[Tripoli TV]* 22

Morocco

Iraqi Minister Delivers Message From Saddam *[MAP]* 25

Sudan

Egyptian Weekly on Location of 'Terrorist' Camps *[ROSE AL-YUSUF 4 Sep]* 25
'Over 15' Reportedly Hurt in University Incidents *[MENA]* 26

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Shiite Opposition Leader Released From Jail *[AFP]* 27
Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives on 'Short' Visit *[WAKH]* 27
    Delivers Kuwaiti Amir's Message *[WAKH]* 27

Oman

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives, Delivers Message *[KUNA]* 27
Foreign Minister Views Iraqi Situation *[Tehran Radio]* 28

Qatar

- Amir on Gulf, Iraq Ties, Peace With Israel *[London MBC TV]* 28
- Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit *[WAKH]* 31
  - Delivers Message, Departs *[WAKH]* 31

Saudi Arabia

- Invitation to Iraqi Minister Linked to Awqaf Forum *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 10 Sep]* 31
- AL-RIYAD Warns Against Partitioning Iraq *[SPA]* 31

IRAQ

- Referendum To Approve Saddam's Reelection Announced 33
  - RCC Issues Law Organizing Referendum *[Baghdad TV]* 33
  - Baghdad To Invite 10,000 Observers *[AFP]* 34
  - Commission Discusses Voting Procedures *[INA]* 35
  - Assembly Approves Saddam's Nomination *[INA]* 35
  - Ibrahim Delivers Speech on Saddam Nomination *[Baghdad TV]* 36
  - Acting Speaker Addresses Nomination Session *[Baghdad TV]* 39
  - Assembly Vote Lauded as People's Decision *[INA]* 40
  - Referendum Response to 'Enemy Fabrications' *[INA]* 40
  - RCC Decrees Show 'Faith in Democracy' *[INA]* 41
- Husayn Kamil Ridicules Saddam Reelection Decision *[AFP]* 42
  - Criticizes Regime's Reelection 'Ploy' *[Voice of Iraqi People]* 43
- Al-Sahhaf Views UN Sanctions, Husayn Kamil *[Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN 9 Sep]* 43
- Baghdad Ready for 'New Relations' With Arab States *[INA]* 44
- TV Reports Security Council Sanctions Review *[Baghdad TV]* 44
- 'Some' Arab Countries' Stand on U.S. 'Plot' Praised *[INA]* 45
- U.S. 'Insistence' on Maintaining Sanctions Viewed *[INA]* 45
- INA Confirms Ibrahim Message to Jordan's Prince Hasan 45
- Jordanian Energy Minister Arrives With Delegation 45
  - Calls Oil Cooperation 'Good' *[INA]* 45
  - Meets With Industry Minister *[INA]* 46
  - Discusses Ties With Oil, Trade Ministers *[INA]* 46
  - Comments on Iraqi Oil, Saudi Tapline *[Amman TV]* 46
- Awqaf Minister Leaves for Islamic Meeting in Saudi Arabia *[INA]* 46

ISRAEL

- Peres Interviewed on Talks With 'Arafat *[Jerusalem TV]* 48
- Singer on 'Phenomenon' in Talks With Palestinians *[Jerusalem Radio]* 50
- Ministers Told Hebron Remains 'Toughest Problem' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 51
- Sarid Says 'Serious Crisis' Over Hebron *[Jerusalem Radio]* 51
- Decision To Sign Accord in Cairo Said Retracted *[MA'ARIV 10 Sep]* 51
- Criteria for Prisoner Release Set; Netanyahu on Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 52
- Liba'i: No Prisoner Release If PA Holds 'Terrorists' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 10 Sep]* 52
- Palestinian Prisoners Kill Hamas Inmate in Prison *[AFP]* 53
- IDF-PA Cooperation, Peace Talks 'Weakening' Hamas *[THE JERUSALEM POST 8 Sep]* 53
- Two Orient House Guards 'Detained' by Police *[AFP]* 54
- Country Said in 'No Rush' To Resume Syria Negotiations *[MA'ARIV 10 Sep]* 54
- Balloons Said 'Unreliable' for Golan Early Warning *[HA'ARETZ 8 Sep]* 54
- Caller Claims Responsibility for Halhul Murder *[Jerusalem Radio]* 55
  - Second Group Makes Claim *[Jerusalem Radio]* 55

JORDAN

Message From Iraq Said To Urge Strong Ties *[JORDAN TIMES 9 Sep]* 56
Official Views Change of Policy on Iraq *[MENA]* 56
Opposition Parties Criticize Policy on Iraq *[INA]* 56
Source Denies Reports of New Iraqi Defections *[AL-ASWAQ 11 Sep]* 57
Article Claims Regime in Anti-Iraq U.S. 'Scheme' *[AL-AHALI 7 Sep]* 57
Iraqi Oil Pipeline Project Reportedly 'Frozen' *[AL-RA'Y 9 Sep]* 58
'Government Source' Cited on Saudi Oil Imports *[AL-ASWAQ 10 Sep]* 58
Al-Kabariti To Meet Kuwaiti Counterpart in Cairo *[AL-RA'Y 10 Sep]* 59
Peace With Israel Tied to Palestinian Accord *[THE JERUSALEM POST 11 Sep]* 59
Foreign Minister on Citizens' Property in Israel *[AL-ASWAQ 9 Sep]* 59
Libyan Decision To Expel Palestinians Assailed *[AL-DUSTUR 10 Sep]* 60

LEBANON

Measures Adopted To Prevent Entry of Palestinians *[Beirut Radio]* 61
Buwayz: Palestinians' Return 'Temporarily' Halted *[Beirut Radio]* 61
Libya To Return Only Those With 'Correct' Papers *[AFP]* 61
Minister Announces Halt to Sea Voyages to Libya *[London MBC TV]* 61
    Views Return of Palestinians *[Beruit Radio]* 61
    Says Entry Visas Needed *[VOL]* 62
Israeli Aircraft Carry Out Mock Raids in South *[Beirut Radio]* 62
Hizballah Calls Jerusalem Celebrations Typical *[London AL-HAYAH 7 Sep]* 62
New Egyptian Ambassador Arrives in Beirut *[Beruit Radio]* 63
Al-Hirawi, Visiting Russian Official Discuss Ties *[VOL]* 63

SYRIA

Daily Cites President on Peace Process Issues *[TISHRIN 6 Sep]* 64
Ba'th Party Official Receives Kurd Leader *[Voice of the People]* 64
Papers Discuss Peace Process Policies 64
    Comment on Israeli Position *[Damascus Radio]* 64
    Comment on Government Policy *[Damascus Radio]* 65

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Taleban Denies Charges of Support From Pakistan *[IRNA]* 67
Cabinet Regrets Loss of Life at Pakistani Embassy *[Kabul Radio]* 67
    Embassy Attack To Be Investigated *[Kabul Radio]* 67
Rabbani Message Assails Attack on Pakistan Embassy *[IRNA]* 67
Foreign Minister Ends 'Secret' Talks With Iran *[AFP]* 68
Rabbani Troops Repulse Taleban Attack on Kabul *[AFP]* 68
Taleban Said Preparing 'Major Attack' on Kabul *[IRNA]* 69
Hekmatyar Seeks Taleban for Anti-Rabbani Front *[AFP]* 69
Government Forces Shoot Down 2 'Enemy' Aircraft *[Kabul Radio]* 69
Governor Pledges To Free Province From Taleban *[AFP]* 70
Taleban Leader Appoints Herat Province Officials *[IRNA]* 70

India

- Report Views U.S. Policy on Pakistan 'Terrorism' *[THE HINDU 6 Sep]* 70
- Al-Faran Reportedly Renews Threat To Kill Hostages *[AFP]* 71
- Contact Said Established With Hostage Abductors *[Delhi TV]* 72
- Al-Faran Abductors Reportedly Extend Deadline *[AFP]* 72
  - Further on Extended Deadline *[Delhi Radio]* 73
- Kashmir Government Assures Security for Journalists *[Delhi Radio]* 73
- Journalists Strike To Mourn Death of Colleague *[AFP]* 73
- Bombs Reportedly Explode Near Sri Lankan Mission *[Delhi Radio]* 74
- Four 'Foreign Mercenaries' Killed in Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 74
- President Accepts Resignation of Affairs Minister *[Delhi Radio]* 74
- Article Addresses Recent Bhutto Interview, Kashmir *[INDIAN EXPRESS 5 Sep]* 74
- Mamata Banerjee Seen Remaining Key Congress Leader *[BARTAMAN 23 Jul]* 76

Iran

- Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayer Sermon *[Tehran Radio]* 77
- U.S. Objections to Russian Cooperation Viewed *[SALAM]* 79
- 'High-Ranking' Iraqi Delegation Arrives *[IRNA]* 79
  - Delegations Discuss Post-War Issues *[Tehran Radio]* 79
- Iraqi Delegation's 'Significant' Visit Viewed *[Tehran International]* 79
- Kuwaiti Minister Pays Official Visit to Tehran 80
  - Arrives, Outlines Aim of Visit *[Tehran Radio]* 80
  - Holds Talks With Besharati *[KUNA]* 80
  - Comments on Iraq Territorial Integrity *[Tehran TV]* 80
  - Delivers Amir Message to President *[Tehran International]* 81
  - Meets With Majles Speaker *[Tehran TV]* 81
  - Departs After 'Constructive' Talks *[Tehran Radio]* 81
- English Daily Views Kuwaiti 'Illogical' Stands *[IRNA]* 81
- UN Urged To Prevent Further French Nuclear Tests *[Tehran International]* 82
- Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets New Envoy to Uzbekistan *[IRNA]* 82
- Foreign Minister Velayati Departs for Turkmenistan *[IRNA]* 83
- Intelligence Ministry's Work Against 'Plots' Hailed *[Tehran TV]* 83

Nepal

- Communist Party Decides To Face No-Confidence Vote *[Delhi Radio]* 83
- Tension Defused on Adhikari No-Confidence Motion *[Delhi Radio]* 83
- Reportage, Results of No-Confidence Vote 84
  - Communist Government Loses *[Kathmandu Radio]* 84
  - Opposition To Form New Government *[AFP]* 84
  - Prime Minister Resigns After Defeat *[AFP]* 85

Pakistan

Editorial Urges Continued Advancement of U.S. Ties *[THE PAKISTAN TIMES 1 Sep]* 85
Islamabad Welcomes Geneva Agreement on Bosnia *[Islamabad Radio]* 86
Iranian Envoy Meets Deputy Foreign Minister *[IRNA]* 86
Officials Review Security, Attack on Aghan Embassy *[Islamabad Radio]* 86
Bhutto Says Afghan Ties To Remain Intact *[Islamabad International]* 86
    Further on Bhutto Remarks *[Islamabad TV]* 86
Government Not To 'Overreact' to Embassy Attack *[Islamabad Radio]* 87
    Minister Details Government Demands *[Islamabad Radio]* 87
Kashmiris Blame Indian RAW for Bomb Blast *[Islamabad Radio]* 87
Explosion Reported in Hyderbad Altaf Group Office *[Islamabad Radio]* 88
Participants Comment on Karachi Peace Talks *[Islamabad Radio]* 88
Government-MQM Talks End on Positive Note *[THE NEWS 8 Sep]* 88
National Unity Government Urged for Azad Kashmir *[AKHBAR-E-JEHAN 30 Jul]* 89
Reportage on Leghari Visit to Turkmenistan *[cross-reference]* 90

Iranian, Syrian, Turkish Ministers Discuss Iraq

Statement Issued Opposing Division of Iraq

LD0809170695 Tehran IRNA in English 1554 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 8, IRNA — The foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey and Syria in their joint statement here today, stressed that the future of Iraq should be decided without the interference of foreign powers.

A statement released after the 7th tripartite talks between Iran's 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Turkey's Erdal Inonu and Syria's Faruq al-Shar', emphasized on the territorial integrity of Iraq and strongly opposed any plot to dismember that country.

"The division of Iraq would have dangerous consequences for peace and stability both at the regional and international level", it said and expressed deep concern over foreign interferences in this regard.

The foreign ministers of the three countries reiterating that their meeting was not against any country or group, asked the government of Iraq to take necessary steps to guarantee the peace and security of the Iraqi people and show respect for their basic rights.

"Any international punitive measure against the Government of Iraq should not be to the detriment of the people of that country," the statement said.

The three foreign ministers also strongly denounced terrorism of any kind against the their respective countries, and stated that they would cooperate in this regard to take individual or collective steps against terrorism. The statement expressed concern over the stockpiling of arms in northern Iraq and the threat that it posses to peace and stability of the region. It warned that such a situation could prove dangerous to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq and would benefit only terrorist grouplets and foreign forces.

The statement said the tripartite talks would continue as per the internationally accepted norms for the sake of safeguarding peace, and stability, and that the next round will be held in Turkey in March 1996.

Further on Joint Statement

JN0909065395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The foreign ministers of Syria, Iran, and Turkey issued a joint statement at the conclusion of their meetings in Tehran yesterday. The statement stresses the extreme importance the three states attach to Iraq's unity and territorial integrity.

In their statement, the ministers expressed full conviction that Iraq's future must be decided by the Iraqi people with all their groups and by their own full free will without any foreign interference.

The statement rejects any attempts to divide Iraq under any pretext, because this would result in the emergence of a dangerous situation detrimental to the regional and international security and stability.

The ministers urged the Iraqi Government to implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, remove all shackles and restrictions against Iraqi citizens, ensure their safety, and respect their basic rights.

The statement urges the international community to take the necessary measures to put an end to the human suffering of the Iraqi people with all their groups and without discrimination.

The statement expresses concern over the existing situation in northern Iraq, a situation which can be exploited by some groups or foreign powers against Iraq's unity and territorial integrity.

The statement stresses the importance of continuing consultations and cooperation among the three states with a view to maintaining regional security and stability.

The ministers decided to hold their next meeting in Turkey in March 1996.

At the end of the meeting at which Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati read out the final statement, the ministers held a news conference in which they responded to questions posed by journalists and correspondents.

Yesterday morning, the foreign ministers of Syria, Iran, and Turkey held a meeting within the framework of the periodic ministerial meetings of the three states. Also taking part in the meeting were the assistant foreign ministers, directors of concerned agencies, and ambassadors of the three states in Damascus, Tehran, and Ankara.

Ministers Hold News Conference

LD0809180695 Tehran IRNA in English 1642 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 8, IRNA — The foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey and Syria addressed a joint press conference attended by foreign and domestic reporters at the end of the 7th round of their tripartite talks here today.

Iran's 'Ali Akbar Velayati replying to a question on foreign interference in Iraqi affairs, said "It is the people of Iraq who should decide the future of their country. We, as the neighbours of Iraq, support the country's territorial integrity."

He added that "foreign countries were plotting to dismember Iraq but I think they will not succeed in their sinister goals."

Velayati warned that peace and stability in Iraq has direct or indirect bearing on neighbouring countries, and "since the Iraqi government has ceased to exist in the northern part of that country, we cannot afford to be indifferent to that region so that outsiders are free to do whatever they like." Asked whether the tripartite meeting focused only on developments in northern Iraq, the Iranian foreign minister said: "Iraq is Iraq. There is no difference between its north and south. The meeting studied the recent developments in Iraq."

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' told reporters that the three countries were concerned about the territorial integrity of Iraq and foreign interferences in that country.

"Syria, Iran and Turkey share unanimity of views regarding the territorial integrity of Iraq and are determined to cooperate in the fight against terrorism," he said. "Syria faces another anxiety and that is the occupation and bombardment of Arab lands by Israel," he added.

On the recent Iraqi developments following the defection to Amman of Saddam Husayn's son-in-law General Husayn Kamil Hasan, al-Shar' said: "In fact, this is not the first important defection from Iraq after the Kuwaiti occupation, but this defection has been blown out of proportion. Before this, important figures have fled Iraq and are in Syria at the moment."

Turkish Foreign Minister Erdal Inonu commenting on press reports that Turkey has designs on parts of northern Iraq, said "This is a blatant lie. Turkey is not casting any greedy eyes on Iraqi soil." He opposed any plan to dismember Iraq or create regional instability, and said that one of the important issues is the problem of terrorism which should be confronted.

On the recent Iraqi defections, he said these were internal matters and Turkey has no intention of interfering in Iraq.

Baghdad Reports News Conference

JN0809192495 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1855 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tehran, 8 Sep (INA)—Iran, Syria, and Turkey on Friday [9 September] said they oppose any foreign interference in Iraqi affairs. They also reiterated their firm adherence to Iraq's unity and territorial integrity.

In a statement issued after a tripartite meeting in Tehran on the situation in Iraq, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Turkish Foreign Minister Erdal Inonu asserted that Iraq's future should be determined by the Iraqi people without any foreign interference and within the framework of the principles of unity, equality, democracy, and good neighborliness.

At a news conference held after the meeting, al-Shar' said the defection of Husayn Kamil Hasan to Jordan was deliberately blown out of proportion and that it does not deserve all this propaganda.

In their statements, the three ministers added: We are against any attempt to partition Iraq under any pretext. They pointed to the serious results the partition of Iraq will pose to regional and international peace and stability.

The three ministers also expressed concern over the stockpiling of arms and ammunition in Iraq's Kurdistan. They pointed out that the situation in northern Iraq can be exploited by terrorist groups and foreign forces.

Iran's Velayati, Turkey's Inonu Meet

LD0909134595 Tehran IRNA in English
0725 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sep 9 (IRNA) — The visiting Turkish Foreign Minister Erdal Inonu and his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Friday [8 September] discussed the promotion of bilateral ties in various economic, trade, commercial, and political areas.

The agreements reached between the two countries were also followed up by the two ministers during the meeting.

Expressing satisfaction over the upward trend of political, security, trade and cultural cooperation between the two neighbors, the two officials called for speedy implementation of other areas of mutual agreement.

Underlining the need for exchange of visit between officials of the two countries, Inonu stressed that such meetings would lead to the promotion of mutual relations as well as regional security.

Referring to positive consequences of bilateral cooperation, Velayati expressed hope that Tehran-Ankara trade cooperation would further consolidate bilateral economic relations.

He then called for the expansion of mutual ties within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) particularly in the field of transportation.

Referring to the Tehran International Trade Fair, to be held in October, the Iranian foreign minister announced that the Islamic Republic of Iran has provided special facilities for ECO member states.

Syria's al-Shar', Inonu View Ties

JN0909065995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Turkish Foreign Minister Erdal Inonu in Tehran last night. The meeting took place on the sidlines of the meetings of the tripartite Syrian-Iranian-Turkish committee. It was attended by members of the two accompanying delegations.

Discussions focused on bilateral Syrian-Turkish relations and ways of improving and promoting them in the interest of the two countries and the Syrian and Turkish peoples.

Iran's Rafsanjani Meets Ministers

LD0909144395 Tehran IRNA in English 1426 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sep 9 (IRNA) — [Iranian] President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here on Saturday [9 September] underlined the role of the regional states in protecting peace and stability in the region.

Receiving the foreign ministers of Syria and Turkey, Faruq al-Shar' and Erdal Inonu, the president said those foreign countries seeking merely to materialize their ominous goals and ensure their illegitimate interest should not be allowed to interfere in regional issues.

President Rafsanjani emphasized the importance of further cooperation and consultation among the regional states to foil various conspiracies of the big powers.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati was also present in the meeting.

President Rafsanjani told the Syrian and Turkish foreign ministers that the strategic location of the Persian Gulf region requires that a unified policy be adopted by regional countries to safeguard peace and stability of the region.

President Rafsanjani said Iran, Syria and Turkey should hold trilateral meetings regularly.

Rafsanjani, al-Shar' Discuss Issues

LD0909154295 Tehran IRNA in English 1511 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sep 9 (IRNA) — Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in a meeting with President Rafsanjani, conveyed the warm greetings of President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria to Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani and said Syria has always consulted with Iranian officials who he said are pursuing an independent policy.

Faruq al-Shar' said the outcome of last week's visit to Tehran of Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam was very useful.

The Syrian foreign minister pointing to current developments in the region said the U.S. and the Zionist regime are sowing discord among the regional states under the guise of peace overtures.

President Rafsanjani voiced Iran's support for Syria to deal with the plots of the Zionist regime and said Tehran believes in firm stand of the Syrian Government and nation in the region.

The president appreciated the resistance of people in southern Lebanon and termed it as the symbol of victory for popular uprising against the aggressors.

Rafsanjani, Inonu Hold Meeting

LD0909155195 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sep 9 (IRNA) — Turkish Foreign Minister Erdal Inonu in his meeting with President Rafsanjani pointed to Iranian peace efforts in the region, saying Turkey is keen to expand its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran in various areas.

The Turkish Foreign Minister said Turkey remained committed to agreements already reached between the two countries on the campaign against terrorist groups and that Turkey will not allow any terrorist action against the Islamic Republic of Iran on Turkish soil.

President Rafsanjani expressed pleasure with the growing trend of Tehran-Ankara relations and said, unfortunately, certain Turkish individuals and groups, not willing to see friendly relations between Iran and Turkey have embarked on marring the good neighbourly relations between the two countries.

Rabin Opens Jerusalem Conference on Tourism

TA0709072895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Prime Minister's Conference on Peace Tourism opened last night in Jerusalem. According to the Ministry of Tourism, a record-breaking 2.2 million people visited the country last year, earning the country $2.7 billion. Tourism has surpassed high tech as Israel's No. 1 industry.

Prime Minister Rabin told the 300 participants that he hopes the peace process would eventually enable tourists to visit all the countries of the region at the same time.

[Begin Rabin recording] What brings people to know more about other peoples, other countries? More than tourism. I have said on many occasions that the best explanation or propaganda for Israel is the people who visit Israel. Once people come over and see what we have achieved, what the problems are, they understand much better what we face, what the Palestinians will face, what the Arab countries face.

I believe that once we move toward peace — with all the difficulties — I believe there is more readiness to realize the unique opportunities for tourism in cooperation with Egypt, Jordan, hopefully in the future with the Palestinians, hopefully with the Syrians and the Lebanese. We can create through tourism a real bridge between peoples, between peoples from all the countries, to relax, to pilgrimage, to enjoy, to understand. [end recording]

Criticizes Russia, PRC on Nuclear Issue

TA0709182195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Rabin has sharply criticized Russia and China for selling nuclear technology to Iran. Rabin was speaking to reporters at an international peace tourism conference in Jerusalem.

[Begin Rabin recording] No doubt in my mind that the question of the proliferation of mass destruction weapons — chemical, biological, and no doubt nuclear — which might develop in the Middle East as a result of the decision of Russia and China to sell to Iran nuclear power plants — and you can never know what can be done under the cover of such a major business — no doubt causes deep concern to Israel, because we are fully aware about the fanatic and lunatic approach of Iran and the spread of the ugly wave of Khomeynism without Khomeyni all over the Arab world and the Muslim world.

And we, at this stage, suffer from terror which mainly derives from this fanatic Islamic terror perception. Try to imagine — hopefully it will not happen — that in 5, or 10, or 15 years the kind of regime that is in existence in Iran will be in possession of nuclear capability should worry not only Israel, should worry the whole world. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Trade Confederation Asks Libya To Halt Expulsions

NC1009170695 Paris AFP in English 1609 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, Sept 10 (AFP) — The International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions urged Libya on Sunday [10 September] to end its expulsion of foreign Arab workers and said Tripoli had broken agreements on the treatment of Palestinians.

The federation, based in Damascus, said it was "surprised" by the measures taken by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi against Arab workers, especially after "Libya authorized their entry to help the country's construction."

In a statement received by AFP, the federation, which has 20 million members in 15 Arab countries, also criticized Libya's call for Arab countries to expel Palestinian workers.

"They need aid and support now more than ever," the federation said.

It said that although "Libya is in a difficult situation because of the (UN) sanctions, this does not justify measures which go against Arab League accords for the placement of Palestinians in Arab countries."

"We are demanding that Libya reverse its decision against Arab workers, who have always defended the country and call on the Arab League and Arab labor organizations to intervene," the federation said.

The Libyan ambassador to Syria, Ahmad Abu Bakr Jallud, told AFP that a "large number" of the two million foreign workers in Libya were there illegally and "did not have work."

"We had opened our borders without condition to Arabs, but we have decided to restore order after numerous incidents of theft, murder, drugs and contraband."

There are about 30,000 Palestinians and up to 900,000 Egyptians working in Libya, out of a total of 1.5 million foreign residents. Lebanon on Saturday imposed new visa restrictions to control the influx of expelled Palestinians.

One diplomat in Egypt said the foreign community had become a heavy burden for Libya, a country of 4.5

million citizens living since 1992 under UN sanctions in connection with the 1988 Lockerbie plane bombing.

Arab League To Observe Algerian Elections

NC0809052595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has stated that the Arab League will send between 30 to 40 monitors from various Arab countries to Algeria to observe the presidential elections scheduled to be held on 16 November.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid returned to Cairo last night following a 3-day visit to Algeria during which he met with Algerian President Liamine Zeroual and a number of senior Algerian officials. His talks dealt with important Arab and international issues.

Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Asks Libya Not To Expel Palestinians

NC0909194195 Paris AFP in English 1549 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Sept 9 (AFP) — The militant group Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] on Saturday [9 September] called on Libyan leader Mu'amar al-Qadhdhafi to reverse his decision to expel Palestinian workers, saying he had chosen the wrong way to attack the Israeli-PLO accords.

Ibrahim Ghawshah, the official spokesman for the Palestinian Moslem group Hamas, sent a message to al-Qadhdhafi about "the unjustified expulsions," the group said in a statement.

"Hamas categorically refuses that the Palestinian people be placed under the hammer and anvil...and that they be the victims of a political position which is trying to express, in an erroneous way, a rejection of the Oslo accords" for autonomy, the statement said.

Al-Qadhdhafi called on Arab countries on September 1 to expel Palestinians to the occupied West Bank to show up the failure of the accords which launched Palestinian self-rule.

"The Palestinian must benefit from a dignified treatment in Arab and Moslem countries...until they can return to their homeland after the Zionists have left our lands which they usurped," the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas said.

Al-Qadhdhafi's call was slammed by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat as a "deliberate provocation" and an attack on the Palestinian people.

About 30,000 Palestinians live in Libya, a third of whom possess Lebanese travel documents. Beirut said Saturday it would close its doors to all Palestinians expelled by Libya, including those with valid papers, because it could not cope with such an influx.

About 300,000 Palestinians live in Lebanon.

Qaddumi Fails To Convince Libya To End Deportations

NC1009174295 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinians' deportation from Libya is still drawing reactions in Lebanon despite Lebanon's decision to require a visa for every Palestinian entering the country. This follows an earlier decision halting sea communications between Lebanon and Libya. Anxiety is growing that the stakes could be higher than the declared assurances and the measures taken indicate.

A Palestinian stand on the expulsions from Libya was announced today. PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi called on Libya to withdraw this decision, saying it harms the Palestinian people's interests. He said the expelled Palestinians cannot go to Palestine because Israel refuses to accept them. He added that the PLO is eager to maintain fraternal ties with Libya and urged the Libyan leaders to consider the fact that the Palestinian people are now passing through very hard times. He emphasized that all the Palestinians will eventually return to their homeland and then they will be able to evict the Israeli occupiers from their country.

It has been learned from a knowledgeable Palestinian source in Tunis that Qaddumi visited Libya two weeks ago to urge Tripoli to reverse its decision, but to no avail. He did not meet Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and his efforts were fruitless.

PLO Fears Expulsions To Create New 'Boat People'

NC1009143195 Paris AFP in English 1425 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Sept 10 (AFP) — Libya's expulsion of Palestinian workers risks creating a tragedy and turning them into boat people, a senior PLO official warned Sunday [10 September].

Muhammad Subayah, the Palestinian representative to the Arab League in Cairo, told AFP that the expulsions could lead to "a great tragedy and a terrible situation for the Arab world."

Libya is "gathering and expelling" Palestinians working on its soil, he confirmed, but the official could not say how many people were affected by the sweeps.

His comments came the same day as 200 Palestinians arrived in buses from Libya with their belongings at the Egyptian border post of Salloum. They were destined for Rafah on Egypt's border with Gaza, officials at Salloum said.

"Their status will become like that of the Vietnamese and the Cubans," who fled their countries, Subayah warned.

"Those who do not have documents from Israel to enter Gaza will remain on the Egyptian border or those who came by sea will become boat people," Subayah said.

He condemned a decision by Lebanon on Saturday to slap visa requirements on Palestinians in a bid to control a flood of refugees from Libya. "The decision does not come at the right time," he said.

Lebanon decided to impose visa requirements even on Palestinians bearing Lebanese travel documents. Some 400 Palestinians thrown out of Libya have already arrived in Lebanon.

Lebanese authorities on Friday closed shipping routes with Libya.

Libya's leader Mu'amar al-Qadhdhafi called on Arab states on September 1 to force their Palestinian workers to go to the autonomous Gaza Strip and Jericho to prove the self-rule deal between Israel and the PLO was a failure.

Al-Qadhdhafi decided to expel Palestinians as well as other Arab nationals whose work contracts have run out. The decision could affect as many as 30,000 Palestinians, of whom 10,000 have Lebanese travel papers.

'Arafat Returns to 'Homeland' From Taba Talks

JN0809151195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1200 GMT 8 Sep 95

[From the "Today's Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat returned to the homeland from Taba a short while ago. While in Taba, he held talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on the overall outstanding issues which are impeding an agreement on implementing the second phase of the Declaration of Principles.

Commenting on these talks, Ahmad Quray' (alias Abu-'Ala'), trade and economy minister, said no progress was achieved. He asserted that differences still exist over the issues of Hebron and control of water resources and electricity.

'Arafat Urges Arabs To 'Salvage Peace Process'

JN0909071895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
0600 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat received the Moroccan, Egyptian, and Jordanian ambassadors accredited to the National Authority yesterday evening. President 'Arafat also received the Troika representatives and the Russian and Japanese ambassadors.

President 'Arafat gave these officials letters to the kings and presidents of their countries informing them of the results of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, particularly the results of his recent meetings with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

In his letters, President 'Arafat emphasized that the negotiations are foundering as no agreement was reached on Hebron which the Israeli side refuses to treat in the same way as other West Bank cities. 'Arafat called on the kings and presidents to intervene to salvage the peace process.

'Draft' of Agreement Between PA, Hamas Reported

NC0909075095 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
5 Sep 95 p 8

[Report by Tariq Hasan in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Palestinian Authority [PA] and the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, are currently discussing a draft agreement between them consisting of 16 points. Ranking Palestinian sources told AL-AHRAM newspaper that the draft, which is the result of recent mediation efforts, was agreed upon by leaders from the Fatah Movement and members of the PA under the patronage of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and leading Hamas figures under the patronage of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin.

The sources noted that the draft confirms the unity of the Palestinian people and their right to establish an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. It also prohibits internal fighting and advocates the use of democratic dialogue and respect for the PLO, stemming from the agreement signed with Israel, while giving everyone the right to express their opinion on these agreements through peaceful means.

The draft agreement stipulates speeding up measures to complete the parties' law in order to entrench the basis for political pluralism and approve Hamas' right to participate in the PA's institutions on all levels based on qualifications and the citizens' right to own personal weapons on the condition that they get licensing from the PA.

The draft also stipulates that ownership or carrying of explosives is prohibited; it is the duty of the PA to protect the individuals of any faction or group who have performed their national duty during the years of struggle. The sanctity of mosques should be preserved and they should not be used for purposes that go against their message. A standing coordination committee between the two sides, Fatah and Hamas, should be set up to discuss all the issues that are presented by any side so that the correct solutions are found.

In another development, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat reaffirmed that Jerusalem is the capital of the State of Palestine and that the struggle continues until the Palestinian flag is raised over the al-Aqsa Mosque. During a tour yesterday of a number of Palestinian schools in Gaza on the occasion of the start of the new scholastic year, 'Arafat pointed out that there are Israelis who regret the peace agreement. [passage omitted]

Hamas Official Denies Report

NC0909190695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1745 GMT 9 Sep 95

[Telephone interview with Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah by Mahdi Hasan; place and date not given; from the "News and Reports" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Hasan] Mr. Ibrahim Ghawshah, there are reports that the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and 'Arafat's self-rule Authority are about to sign an agreement under which Hamas mujahidin in 'Arafat's prisons will be released in return for the movement stopping jihad operations against the usurper entity. How true is this?

[Ghawshah] These reports are baseless and completely fabricated. Through its official spokesman, Hamas issued a statement today to all news media denying these reports. It transpires that those reports came from Zionist sources and the Palestinian Authority [PA]. The aim is to cover up for the negotiations in Elat and Taba, which are giving away the rights of the Palestinian people. These reports also seek to create confusion in the ranks of the Islamic current at this time and to frustrate the Palestinian people. This is the purpose of disseminating this fabricated news.

[Hasan] Do you think the Palestinian people, especially the Islamic current, will be deceived by such fabrications?

[Ghawshah] The Palestinian people and the Islamists, whether Palestinians or otherwise, cannot be deceived by these reports. The program of jihad and resistance is a divine program from God Almighty; no one can stop it. Jihad will continue until the day of judgment. We believe that the Zionist occupation of the land of Palestine — a racist, criminal and destructive occupation — must be resisted by all available means. This is a legitimate right of every people with occupied land and displaced sons. Religious and civil laws, and even UN resolutions, stress and sanction this. [passage omitted]

Fatah Condemns Israeli Killing of Palestinian

JN0809154195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Sep 95

[From the "Today's Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian National Liberation Movement, Fatah, condemned the Israeli occupation troops' liquidation of Salman Husayn Salman al-Zana'irah, a youth from the township of Halhul in the Hebron district.

In a statement today, the Fatah Movement said an Israeli occupation soldier from a distance of only five meters opened fire on the martyr without any justification while he was on his way back home. The Fatah Movement also called on world public opinion and on all peace-loving peoples to intervene to protect our people from Israeli occupation.

Armed Men Kidnap 'Fatah Hawks' Member

NC1009120395 Paris AFP in English 1144 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nabulus, West Bank, Sept 10 (AFP) - Five armed men kidnapped a member of the Fatah Hawks here Sunday [10 September], a Palestinian source said.

The men who seized Na'il Shubaytah may have been supporters of a Fatah official in the northern West Bank, 'Isam Abu-Bakr, who was suspended from the group one month ago, the source added.

After the kidnapping, 25 Fatah Hawks, an elite armed corp of Yasir Arafat's main PLO Fatah faction, marched through the old town of Nabulus armed with grenades, pistols and machine guns.

Al-Shaqaqi Hospitalized, Advised To Resign

JN0809200295 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 8 Sep 95 p 14

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources close to the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement have said that the movement's Secretary General Fathi al-Shaqaqi was hospitalized for urgent medical checkups after his health deteriorated seriously. The sources, which declined to disclose the nature of al-Shaqaqi's illness, said that his doctors suggested that he take a long leave or even resign his post to undergo a complete medical treatment. But he rejected the suggestion and insisted on resuming his duties.

The sources also said that the health condition of al-Shaqaqi was affecting him psychologically. As a result, people close to him are complaining that he has been mistreating them and that he refused to listen to their views, contrary to what he used to do in the past. They said that the psychological pressures to which he was being exposed negatively affected his relations with people close to him, particularly his deputy Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Awdah, who, along with other leaders of the movement, have begun working independently. This angered al-Shaqaqi. The situation was even further complicated by his fears that he would lose his leadership of the movement and that the repercussions of the peace process would limit his activity in Damascus.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Joint Control of Hebron Government Building Proposed

TA0809204295 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Sep 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the first time, Israel has offered the Palestinians joint control of the main government office building in Hebron. The proposal was made in a document worked out between Major General 'Uzi Dayan and General Ghazi (Kihiya) in an attempt to reach agreement on the Hebron issue.

In the document, whose contents have reached our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen, Israel agrees to the gradual thinning out and withdrawal of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] from five outposts in the town. Palestinian policemen will deploy in several locations. The Palestinians are demanding 150 policemen, while Israel agrees to approximately 80. According to the document, the Palestinian policemen will be armed with revolvers rather than rifles and, in order to ease the situation of the Arab population, the IDF will remove the roadblocks and open the markets.

Perhaps the most surprising agreement is that Palestinian police will be stationed in the main government building, the Sarayah, together with the IDF. The Palestinian flag will be hoisted on the building, which to Hebronites symbolizes Israeli control of the town. They point to the site as the focus of Shin Bet interrogations. Palestinian police will be able to enter the building on the eve of the elections in the territories.

Paper Details Israeli Proposal

TA1009104795 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Sep 95 pp 2, 3

[Report by Nahum Barne'a and Shim'on Schiffer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Three months after Israel and the PLO sign the interim agreement, a Palestinian flag will be hoisted above the government building in Hebron. This is one of the offers Israel made to the Palestinians in the talks on the interim arrangement in Hebron.

Israel has already taken steps to relocate the detainees held in the government building in Hebron and to remove the military court and the Civil Administration offices. The liaison unit between the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Palestinian Authority [PA] will be stationed in the building. The Palestinian and Israeli flags will be hoisted side by side.

According to the Israeli offer, the Hebron brigade command, which is subject to the Hebron District commander, will remain in the building. The Palestinians have firmly rejected this offer. They demand that the brigade command be removed from the building which dominates the Hebron skyline. Both parties maintain that whoever resides in the building controls the city.

The decision on whether to remove the brigade command from the government building will be one of the toughest decisions that will remain for Rabin and 'Arafat to deal with at the very last minute.

After the Israeli offer was made on the evening of 7 September, 'Arafat asked Peres for an hour-long recess. When the parties reconvened at the Hilton Taba Hotel, 'Arafat's first remark was: "A further compromise is required from you." 'Arafat addressed three issues on which Israel was asked to change its stand:

The first was the Sarayah, the government building; the second was the Shuhadah, the old city center. 'Arafat demanded that the commercial district be fully reopened, after having been closed down following the Cave of the Patriarchs massacre. The third issue was control over Halhul and the main roads in Hebron. 'Arafat demanded that the Palestinians be given full control of these sites, as promised for the six other West Bank cities.

The talks with the Palestinians are resuming in Elat today, with delegations headed by Uri Savir and Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray], and are scheduled to be held on a continuous basis through to 13 September when Peres and 'Arafat will meet again in Taba. The parties intend to attain an agreement by 16 September because otherwise, the parties will be unable to hold the signing ceremony in Washington before Jewish New Year's Eve.

Work done behind the scenes on the Hebron arrangement shows that Peres and 'Arafat made efforts to make the people who will be in charge of implementing it — the Israeli military men and the heads of Fatah in Hebron — party to drafting the agreement. The IDF's most senior representative is Major General 'Uzi Dayan, who is in charge of the Hebron Committee headed by Brigadier General Gil'ad Sher and, representing the Central Command, Brigadier General Yom-Tov Samia. On the Palestinian side, 'Arafat brought in his minister of post and telecommunication, Dr. 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Ashhab, who is a resident of Hebron. In addition, all Fatah leaders from Hebron were brought to the talks. "'Arafat precooked them," one of the Israelis said.

When Peres arrived in Taba on the eve of 7 September, he realized that the gaps between the parties were still wide. In agreement with 'Arafat, he instructed Gen. Dayan and his Palestinian counterpart General 'Abd-al-Raziq Yahya to jointly draft a paper on all the points on which an agreement can be made.

"Work slice by slice," Peres said. "Bring up issues for normalization, confidence-building measures, an international observers force." Peres asked the generals to reach what he termed "a joint point of departure for an arrangement."

Dayan, Sher, Samia, al-Ashhab, and Yahya sat together all day on 8 September and worked on the paper. They came up with a document that included only two Palestinian reservations marked with the Latin letter P. The paper views Hebron as "a special case." The arrangement is based on a prolonged process of Israeli evacuation of the city, the ending date of which was not determined.

'Arafat spent the day in Alexandria in a meeting with Egyptian President Mubarak. Peres also considered visiting Mubarak, but the trip was canceled, probably in view of the crisis with Egypt over the affair of the killing of Egyptian POW's. 'Arafat returned to Taba in the afternoon.

The atmosphere was good in the evening of 7 September. The issues of water, electricity, and finance were settled. At 2000, the teams headed by Peres and 'Arafat started discussing security. As requested by the Palestinians, Hebron was the first issue. Gen. Dayan presented the paper drafted during the day. "This is the best paper we could provide as a starting point," he said. "We can make progress from here."

When he completed his presentation, 'Arafat's first question was: "What about the observer force?"

"We are not enthusiastic about an international force and neither are you," Dayan said, "but we do not oppose opting for it."

The force discussed presently will be made up of some 150 unarmed observers, probably from Norway and Denmark, who were part of the observer force stationed in Hebron after the massacre. The Palestinians demand that the observers be given broad powers "with teeth" throughout the city.

Gen. 'Abd-al-Raziq Yahya stood up and said: "The Israelis worded this. This is the Israeli wording of the joint stands. You may accept the paper, change it, or reject it." Gen. Yahya did not speak anymore that evening. His remark, hinting that the Israeli approach is reasonable, was very hard for some of the Palestinians to stomach, mainly for Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh.

"Two of your and our best generals sat down today," Peres said, "and this is what they came up with. I suggest we go on from here."

'Arafat then asked for a recess to thoroughly review the Israeli document.

The Israeli paper opens with the following sentence: "The parties acknowledge that due to the unusual sensitivity of Hebron for both Israelis and Palestinians, a special approach is required for all the issues pertaining to the city. The parties therefore declare that they agree to introduce special arrangements in the city." The Israeli stands as presented in the discussion included the following points:

— Security: The first issue is the IDF redeployment. The IDF will withdraw from Hebron District, which includes the densely populated townships of Yattah, Sammu', Dura, al-Zahiriyah, and others. The evacuation of Hebron and the township of Halhul will be gradual. Israel promises not to maintain stationary forces or commands on these sites. The IDF presence will be restricted to patrols, lookout posts, and mobile roadblocks. The Palestinians accepted IDF control over all the Jewish settlements in and around the city. They firmly opposed IDF control over the exits from Hebron and the part of the road to Jerusalem that crosses Halhul.

Most of the army forces will be removed from Hebron, and the size of units at four sites will be reduced. An IDF battalion in Abu-Sunaynah, a hill in the heart of Hebron, will be evacuated, and a lookout post will replace it. The regiment at the (Hawaz) junction in southern Hebron will be replaced by a lookout post. The prison in the government building will be evacuated. The permanent roadblock at the Si'ir-al-Shuyukh junction will be removed and replaced by a roadblock that "will remain open under normal conditions," and the roadblock between the city center and Tall al-Rumaythah will be opened.

All the above steps have been approved by Central Command commander Ilan Biran and the chief of staff.

— Normalization: Life in the city center will return to what it used to be before Barukh Goldstein's massacre. The market will reopen as a wholesale market. The road used for traffic between Bet Hadassah and the Avraham Avinu neighborhood will not open fully due to defense establishment opposition.

— Licensing: Water quotas for Hebron, permits for work in Israel, export licenses, and transit permits will be increased. It became apparent in the talks that the Hebron region receives less export permits than the Bethlehem region.

— Police: Two weeks ago, the Palestinians were told that Israel had agreed to the establishment of one Palestinian police station in the 'Isa neighborhood in western Hebron. The station will be manned by 50 police officers armed with handguns who will be in charge of the neighborhood and its vicinity. In the region under police supervision, Israel will unofficially act as it does in the other cities defined as area A — its forces will stay out.

The Palestinians have a different version: The station will be manned by 210 police officers, the standard size of a Palestinian police station, who will be in charge of law enforcement throughout Hebron.

Israel suggested that a unit of municipal supervisors be set up as well to enforce the law and direct traffic. The Palestinians responded that the issue of who supervises their traffic is not Israel's business.

— The Cave of the Patriarchs: Israel made it clear that due to security sensitivities, it will not change the current security arrangements, but will ease the measures regarding Muslim prayers. The Palestinians complained that they are being harassed and abused by the security forces and settlers in the cave. "You are punishing the victims," they said.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 10 September publishes on page A3 a report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin adding: "It now transpires that in the negotiations on Hebron redeployment, the Palestinians are leaning toward accepting the Israeli demand that security for the Cave of the Patriarchs remain solely under Israeli security forces' control. For its part, Israel will in the future consider ways for easing prayer procedures for Muslims in the cave. Israeli representatives in the negotiations unequivocally stated that no Palestinian policeman can be deployed in the Cave of the Patriarchs, and that Israel will not tolerate the presence of PA supervisors or observers in the cave."

[A report by Aluf Ben, Ori Nir, and Eytan Rabin published on pages A1 and A12 of the same issue of HA'ARETZ adds: "Military sources yesterday said that Israel will not permit Palestinian police to operate a guard unit in the Cave of the Patriarchs, while the Palestinians over the last few days have demanded permission to deploy a police force in the area to guard Muslim worshipers. The same sources added that other holy sites in the West Bank, such as Joseph's Tomb, will be guarded by the IDF. According to the plan being worked out by the IDF, its forces will leave four to six bases in Hebron."

["The military sources denied a report that appeared on Jerusalem Channel 2 Television on 8 September, according to which Israel will permit Palestinian policemen to enter the military government building in Hebron."]

— Supervision: A steering committee on Hebron will be established. The Palestinians want a ministerial level; Israel prefers a military level.

Yasir 'Arafat spent 15 hours with Peres in Taba last week, five of them in private. Peres insisted that they talk tete-a-tete so that 'Arafat's men would not see him as hard pressed.

'Arafat was very clear in defining the gap between his and Israel's stands: "You took Jerusalem out of the negotiations, and we accepted that. You decided not to remove the settlers, and we accepted that. You want to be fully responsible for the security of the settlements, and we accepted that too. But you cannot take Hebron out of the negotiations. You will have to leave Hebron just as you are leaving Nabulus, Ramallah, and other cities; otherwise, 650,000 former and present Hebronites in the West Bank will not accept the agreement."

'Arafat demanded credit for his struggle against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in Gaza. "We are in control in Gaza. We split Hamas in three. We are seriously fighting it."

Peres presented the IDF grievance that Hamas has unlimited control over the residents of Hebron. "Let me come in there," 'Arafat said, "and the situation will change. We will put things in order. We will even penetrate the political strata."

Hebron was so important to 'Arafat that he did not even address the issue of the Palestinian prisoners which is raised in every meeting with him, and did not react to the Israeli offer to present maps.

(Contrary to various publications, the Palestinians have so far not been presented the IDF redeployment maps. They were only presented the maps of cities belonging to area A and points Israel defined as permanent Arab settlements. The maps of areas B and C were not presented.)

'Arafat claimed that there are only 47 Jewish families in Hebron, and that some of them, in fact, reside in Qiryat Arba' and only spend their days in Hebron. "You are paralyzing a city of 140,000 people for 400. Let us live."

Peres told 'Arafat that the Israeli offer is the maximum for which a parliamentary majority can be attained. "If you do not want the agreement, there will be no agreement. Israel will survive without it."

'Arafat said that Israel allows itself more freedom of operation than that spelled out in agreements. "Are you asking for permission for your operations in Lebanon?" he asked.

He mentioned the fact that Israel is operating 30 armored vehicles on the road to Netzarim in the Gaza Strip in contravention of the agreement. "Did you hear me complain about this?" he asked.

'Arafat bitterly complained about Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi who has deported 40,000 Palestinians. "The Arab world is snubbing us," he said.

Peres remarked that had Israel been an autonomy and there were 24 Jewish states in the world, its situation would have been much better. The Arab countries will only help you with your protests, he said.

Peres viewed with admiration data presented at the talks according to which the Palestinians have collected more taxes than Israel had estimated it would, and the PA's budgetary situation is better than expected. He considers the agreement with the Palestinians to be a tremendous success.

There were differences among 'Arafat's men. Sa'ib 'Urayqat called for maximum cooperation between the IDF and the Palestinian forces, saying: "Let us guard security together, and things will work out fine." While Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh attacked Peres for the Israeli offer: "This is a continuation and perpetuation of the occupation. You should have evacuated the settlers instead."

"This is the offer I can make," Peres replied.

Peres is certain that an agreement will be attained at the end of the current round of talks. Our purpose is to sign an agreement with 'Arafat without humiliating him; otherwise, 'Arafat would lose support for his struggle against Hamas, Peres remarked.

So far, some 300 pages of the agreement book were written, with Hebron remaining the sole difficult problem, which will be solved at the last minute. "There is still much work to be done," Peres said. He compared the attempt to solve the problem of the Hebron settlers with an attempt to take an omelet and turn it back into eggs. Peres was seriously shocked by the murder in Halhul. He is certain it was perpetrated by Jews.

Powers Handed Over to PA; Israeli Official Comments

TA1009173095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 10 Sep 95

[Report by Dani Zaqen]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel and the Palestinians agreed at the end of last month that Israel would continue handing over powers to the Palestinian Authority [PA]. The process began today, after several days in which the two sides worked side by side. Today PA representatives took over powers in the spheres of labor, commerce and industry, statistics, agriculture, fuel, and municipality.

The latter is the biggest and the most important power transferred today, and PA representative Husayn al-A'araj told us of a personnel changeover plan, which he termed as the revitalizing of the administrative manpower. Four of the 12 Judaea and Samaria mayors submitted their resignation to the Civil Administration without waiting for a dismissal letter from 'Arafat. Colonel David Bar'el, the Civil Administration deputy chief, says that under the agreement, the PA is obligated to continue employing the administration's Palestinian staffers. [passage omitted] The Civil Administration hopes the Palestinians will cooperate with Israel through the Coordination and Liaison Administration at Bet-El in this respect.

[Interviewed by Arye Gus later in the newsreel, the Civil Administration chief, Brigadier General David Shahaf, says "the Palestinians consented to take on the local authority powers" despite the unresolved Hebron situation. He adds that the transfer of powers "includes Hebron." Shahaf notes that "the transfer of powers will not affect the Jewish settlements, because the accords do not apply to the Israeli settlements."

[Asked about difficulties in the negotiations on the transfer of other powers, Gen. Shahaf says: "I would not describe the situation as difficulties. We are nearing the end of the talks on the interim agreement, and there are several outstanding issues and powers on which negotiations are under way — some at an advanced stage, others nearing conclusion. The transfer of the eight powers, in addition to the powers handed over in the course of 1994, has facilitated the negotiations."

[He adds that the Civil Administration "continues to assist the Palestinians in spheres that have been handed over so as to make it possible for the Palestinians to run the newly acquired offices in the best possible way for the benefit of the population."]

Israel, Jordan, PA Approve Study on Water

NC1009173295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1410 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority [PA] have approved the results of the regional comparison study conducted by the Norwegian Institute of Infrastructure Studies and the CIZAR [as transliterated] Resources Management Institute on the basic and legislative arrangements for the distribution of water in the area. This is included in a statement released by the Norwegian Embassy in Cairo today on the work of the periodical meetings on water resources held 6-8 September in Oslo under the sponsorship of the Norwegian Foreign Ministry and co-chaired by the Cizar Institute and the United States, sponsor of the multinational working group on water resources.

The statement said that the three parties agreed to work together and cooperate on a number of issues relating to water in the region and to preserve the new wealth of resources to serve their peoples. These parties expressed a desire for Syria and Lebanon to join them in increasing the current efforts in this respect. The statement says that the Norwegian Government will submit a report on the results of this meeting and other previous meetings to the United States because it is the sponsor of the multinational working group on the water resources.

Algeria

Dembri: Presidential Elections Slated for 16 Nov

NC0809144695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1215 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Algiers, 8 Sep (MENA)—Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri has stressed that the presidential election will be held on 16 November as scheduled. He described the election as part of a plan to get out of the political crisis Algeria has been suffering for over three years.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Dembri said Algerian President Liamine Zeroual, by announcing the presidential elections, has given the Algerian people hope of an end to the crisis. [passage omitted]

Speaks on Elections, Arab Issues

LD1109065095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 0600 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri has stressed that the presidential elections to be held on 16 November constitute a part of the proposed plan to come out of the crisis which Algeria has been experiencing for over the past three years. This came in a statement he made to MENA. He added that by announcing the elections President Liamine Zeroual has given hope to the people to overcome the current crisis.

Regarding the situation in the Arab arena Mr. Dembri said that the common starting point is to preserve the unity of the Arab word and to put the Arab house in order and to bring about reconciliation and frankness at the same time. He added: These are the general principles which we follow. It is inevitable that a line should be drawn between the past and the future that we all aspire for. The minister was asked about the policies which ought to be implemented in order to protect the Arab societies as a whole. He stressed the need to air these ideas at the Arab League and embody them in a working document that will be respected by all. He also said: In this context, the Arab League should play a strong role in conveying the Arab stance. It is inevitable that this Arab organization should be encouraged to play a bigger role in the coming stage.

Mr. Dembri announced that the foreign ministers of the Arab Mediterranean countries will be holding a meeting on the sidelines of the forthcoming Arab League ministerial council meeting in Cairo in order to coordinate their stances in preparation for the Barcelona conference. Regarding Arab-African cooperation Mr. Dembri said that Algeria has been nominated to host the Arab-African cooperation council; currently Kuwait is chairing the Arab delegation at this council. Agreement has been reached with the Arab League secretary general to set a date before the end of this year for Algeria to assume the chairmanship. Regarding Arab coordination with the Nonaligned Movement the minister said that this subject is important and we have agreed to place it on the agenda of the forthcoming session of the Arab League ministerial council. He added that the Nonaligned Movement is currently facing political challenges and new prospects and it is inevitable that the Arabs who are members of the movement should have an effective presence within the movement.

Mr. Dembri spoke about Algerian-Egyptian relations and said that they are always fruitful. There is total harmony at the present time between the diplomacies of the two fraternal countries to coordinate the stances at all international gatherings.

Benhamouda Not To Participate in Elections

LD1009120995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 0600 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Abdelhak Benhamouda, secretary general of the General Union of Algerian Workers told the third channel yesterday that he does not intend to be a candidate in the presidential elections. Benhamouda also pointed out that he is preoccupied with the labor conditions of the workers who are facing an exorbitant rise in prices, as he said.

Zeroual Addresses National Commission for Elections

LD0909172395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On the occasion of the installment of the independent national commission to monitor the presidential elections, President Liamine Zeroual delivered a speech today in which he stressed that this event is considered a prominent landmark on the country's progress on the road of a pluralistic democracy.

Zeroual said the installment of the aforementioned commission is a gigantic step achieved by Algeria for organizing the upcoming presidential elections in a democratic, free, and transparent manner.

He added that the commission for monitoring the presidential elections reflected the political pluralism, a pluralism the foundations of which were democratic principles, the principles of respecting the other.

The head of state called on the members of the commission to perform their mission with all determination and resolution.

Benmansour Discusses Election Procedures, Practices

*NC1109085195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0630 GMT 11 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Algiers, 11 Sep (MENA)—Mostafa Benmansour, Algerian minister of interior, local communities, environment, and administrative reform [name and title as received], has stated that terrorist operations in Algeria lately will not obstruct the presidential elections slated for 16 November. He said that these aimless operations and booby-trapped cars targeting government institutions and citizens show how desperate the perpetrators are.

Benmansour told MENA that the Algerian security forces will conquer these cowardly criminal gangs, which select easy targets. He pointed out that blowing up a school, a bridge, or foodstore shows that the perpetrators have no method but this barbaric one, which needs no courage. He said the citizens are witnesses to and reject these terrorist operations.

The Algerian interior minister stated that all the necessary measures have been adopted to help citizens cast their votes and express their views freely and safely. He said there is determination to hold the elections on time, since this is part of solving the country's problem.

Benmansour stressed that security is showing concrete improvement despite terrorist incidents. He said that the security system is consistent with the electoral procedures and covers 1,541 municipal units nationwide. He added that there are dozens of structures, blocks, and societies that constitute the real power in 48 provinces nationwide.

The Algerian minister pointed out that the elections have become the national demand of popular powers, which stress the need to hold them on time. He added that popular marches in various provinces denounced violence and emphasized the people's desire to hold the elections.

The interior minister denounced the acts of violence that terrorist groups commit, pointing out that these groups fear the people emerging from the elections with a legitimately elected institution. He said the president invited international and Arab observers and journalists to monitor the elections and ensure their cleanness. This shows how eager the State is to run free and fair elections and how confident it is of the success of the electoral process, he remarked.

Asked about the opposition's demand to postpone the elections and engage in dialogue, Benmansour said President Zeroual has repeatedly emphasized that the door to dialogue is open to all the political powers and individuals who accept dialogue and reject violence as a means of taking power. He added that the date of the presidential elections, in which the people will make the decision, was determined by a firm will.

Commenting on opposition remarks that the elections could be rigged in favor of a particular candidate, the interior minister said the word "rigging" is not listed in the Algerian dictionary in 1995. He stated that the procedures for registering voters and the system applied to preparing for the elections are nothing less than those applied in countries with a long history of democratic elections. I defy anyone to visit the municipalities and find a flaw in the electoral process, he said, adding that the media are very freely involved in a considerable part of the electoral process and preparations for it.

Asked about guarantees to candidates, he replied that there are many guarantees to ensure the elections are fair and comply with the Constitution. He added that there are other guarantees, like the elections law, the apparatus organizing them, the freedom of the press, which reports everything, and the international observers who will monitor the elections.

After the interview Benmansour said an independent national committee had been set up to monitor the elections. It embraces representatives from parties, associations, candidates, national organizations, and the sons of martyrs, Benmansour said, adding that the committee will undertake communications nationwide to ensure the electoral process is clean and correct.

Television Journalist, Wife Shot Dead

*LD0809224595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 2200 GMT 8 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the security services this evening said that Said Brahimi, 35 years old, a journalist at the national television establishment, and his wife were shot dead in the (Benchrarda) area, in the municipality of (Benchoud) Dellys, at about 1530 today. The deceased was in his car heading for his parents' house on a visit, the security services said.

Newspapers To Strike Over Journalists' Murders

*LD0909220795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in French 2130 GMT 9 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Algerian association of newspaper publishers has decided to observe a three-day strike from 11 September in protest against the assassination of journalists.

In a statement published on 9 September, the association of newspaper publishers reminded the authorities of their responsibility for the security of journalists.

Egypt

'Arafat Briefs Mubarak on Talks With Israel

JN0709142495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Sep 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Taba]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat met with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak at the Presidential Palace in the city of Alexandria this morning and briefed him on the latest developments in the Palestinian-Israeli talks after holding talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Peres on the application of the second stage of the Declaration of Principles accord. President 'Arafat also discussed with President Mubarak the obstacles that are blocking efforts to reach an agreement.

Soon after his arrival in Taba from Alexandria this afternoon, President 'Arafat asserted that much work was still to be done.

President 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres are due to meet at the Hilton Hotel in Taba this evening to resume talks on pending issues between the two sides, particularly the Hebron and water issue. The two sides did not produce any tangible results during their meeting in Taba last night. We will provide you with the latest results as soon as the meeting ends.

Council Blames Israel for POW Killings

NC0909174895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1314 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA)—The members of the Egyptian Consultative Council have declared that Israel is fully responsible for the criminal killing of Egyptian POW's during the 1956 and 1967 wars, noting that, in line with international agreements and law, such crimes are not subject to a statute of limitations.

During a meeting held today by the Consultative Council's Foreign and Arab Relations and National Security Committee to discuss the POW killings, committee chairman Dr. Mufid Shihab said that Israel must swiftly submit the results of investigations into the issue or the affair will turn into an international dispute and might adversely affect Egyptian-Israeli relations and the regional peace process.

He added that Egypt has a right to submit the issue to international arbitration and to demand reparations. He emphasized that Israel must confess that it carried out these acts, offer a formal apology to Egypt, condemn the incidents in question, and pay the required reparations to Egypt as the injured country and to the families of the dead POW's.

Shihab also noted it is important to disclose where the POW's were buried and whether mass graves were used, so we can transfer their remains to Egypt.

He added that Israel bears the responsibility for these acts before the world, regardless of whether the defense minister, the chief of staff, or army officers perpetrated them. He pointed out that international commitments outweigh local laws in this case and that neither Israel nor any other country can use the pretext that its domestic law contradicts international law.

Members of the committee commented on the crime. Muhammad Rajab of the ruling National Democratic Party [NDP] said that Israel is dragging its feet in investigating the killing of the Egyptian POW's and this makes it necessary to put pressure on Israel to set a deadline for an investigation. As a form of pressure, he urged that Egypt should consider submitting the issue to international investigating bodies or offer to take part in the Israeli investigation itself. He warned against letting the fear that the peace process would be damaged hamper the demand for a swift investigation into the killings.

Muhammad Farid Zakariya, representing the opposition Liberal Party wondered how many Egyptian POW's were actually killed by the Israelis. He said Egypt should make an announcement to this effect.

Zakariya praised President Husni Mubarak's close attention to this issue. He remarked that demanding a swift investigation cannot affect the peace process. He urged that the Egyptian Government and the opposition parties agree to play complementary roles in order to exert the greatest possible pressure on Israel and give the opposition a chance to criticize Israel.

Dr. Rif'at al-Sa'id, representing the opposition National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party, demanded that neutral observers supervise the interrogation of the killers of the Egyptian POW's. He said Israel must make a formal apology and offer appropriate reparations. He noted that this will prevent it from repeating such crimes.

Al-Sa'id said that we must consider forming a people's tribunal, explaining that this will be used to exert the greatest possible pressure on Israel and to condemn it.

Dr. Sunaydit Halim said it is necessary to identify the remains of the dead POW's and relocate them to a cemetery specially built for the purpose. He added that heavy reparations must be paid either to the state or the POW's families.

Dr. Nabih al-'Alqami, of the ruling NDP, denied that Egypt tortured any Israeli POW's in earlier wars and said the Egyptian Army had orders to give POW's very good treatment.

Muhammad al-Batran, also of the NDP, called for a fact-finding committee on the POW issue, the recitation of absentee prayers for the souls of the dead next Friday, and the sounding churches' bells tomorrow, Sunday.

Committee member Muhammad Sabri Mubaddi called for forming a people's committee whose task will be to oppose normalization with Israel at the grassroots level.

Buses Carrying Palestinians Cross Border From Libya

NC1009154395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1456 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Sallum, 10 Sep (MENA)—Four buses crossed at the al-Sallum border crossing from Libya today carrying 200 Palestinians who have been deported by the Libyan authorities and are on their way to the Gaza Strip through Egyptian territory.

A responsible security source stated that this group's journey directly through Egyptian territory to Gaza has been coordinated by the Egyptian, Libyan, and Palestinian authorities.

Asylum Offer to Saddam, U.S. Scenario Viewed

NC0809170495 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 4 Sep 95 pp 14-15

[Report by Wa'il al-Ibrashi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Some 35 years ago Iraqi President Saddam Husayn was a political refugee in Egypt fleeing a death sentence in Baghdad. He was 22. He would spend his time at the al-Tirsanah Club and the Indiana Cafe and walk the streets of Cairo at night. He set up Ba'thist student groups within the university before returning to Baghdad after the execution of Iraqi President 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim to consolidate his influence and seize power a few years later. To the Iraqi president, Cairo was a stopover to escape death and seize power. Will Cairo be Saddam's final destination for the stability of Iraq and the Iraqi people and his last stop so that ruination and destruction may end? The question now is: What were the strong motives and reasons behind the Egyptian proposal to offer Saddam Husayn political asylum in Egypt and avert a bloodbath, as President Mubarak put it?

According to an Egyptian diplomatic source, Saddam Husayn recently turned from a "check" used by the Americans for cash into a U.S. election card through which Clinton seeks to increase his popularity in the face of the Republicans. This has prompted the U.S. Administration to replace the principle of "benefiting" financially, politically, and militarily from the deteriorating situation in Iraq with that of "removing" Saddam from power, to score election points and satisfy U.S. voters. The same source cited several considerations behind the Egyptian offer. One week before Husayn Kamil's escape, Jordanian King Husayn told Egyptian officials that the United States told him it would not lift the embargo on Iraq, even if it destroyed all its weapons of mass destruction and complied with all the Security Council resolutions. This is what King Husayn stated in his speech. The Jordanian monarch also told Egyptian officials that the embargo against Iraq will remain in force as long as Saddam stays in power. This means that life in Iraq will go from bad to worse. It also means that the lifting of the embargo is not conditional upon the implementation of the Security Council resolutions; it is conditional on the departure of Saddam. This is why King Husayn, who thought the embargo would be lifted and that Saddam would regain some of his power, changed his stance on Saddam. The American emphasis to King Husayn that the embargo would not be lifted while Saddam stayed in power was one of the key considerations on which Egypt's proposal for Saddam's peaceful exit from Iraq and asylum offer in Egypt was based.

The same source has revealed a new secret. The Jordanians told Egypt that the United States not only recruited Saddam's sons-in-law Husayn Kamil and Saddam Kamil. It also recruited Barzan al-Tikriti, Iraq's delegate to the UN in Geneva and Saddam's half brother who is a mysterious puzzle and who works one day against the regime and the next day with the regime, harboring the ambition of jumping into power. And the United States recruited other Iraqi officials inside Iraq who are carrying on with their official jobs without showing any sign of their relations with the Americans. This means that the power struggle in Iraq will be bloody once the United States gives the signal for it, particularly so if the Jordanian officials' words to Egypt about U.S. intelligence recruiting Iraqi officials in power are true.

Egypt's proposal to accept Iraqi President Saddam Husayn as a political refugee in Egypt has come with a desire to avoid a bloodbath in Iraq, as President Mubarak has stated.

According to the same Egyptian diplomatic source, Egypt has information that the stage in Iraq is currently being set for a massacre, power struggle, and bloodbath in the known and normal Iraqi way. But the timing depends on the U.S. Administration's desire.

The U.S Administration knows that American voters viewed the failure to bring down Saddam Husayn as one of former U.S. President George Bush's biggest mistakes. Since it does not want to be in that situation again, the U.S. Administration has set the stage and holds ready the card of toppling Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, a card it will use at the appropriate time according to the rules and regulations of the U.S. election campaign.

The same source notes that the United States is not setting the stage to bring down Saddam only to please the American voter, but also to appease the Gulf people. The U.S. Administration has received reports from its embassies in the Gulf states that Gulf citizens, namely the Kuwaitis, have begun to feel that the United States is blackmailing them. They have begun to understand the situation clearly; Saddam Husayn is the chicken that lays the Gulf golden egg for the Americans, who want to maintain the current situation to acquire money and make political, economic, and military gains for themselves while the Gulf people remain scared by Saddam, a man who frightens no one any longer.

The same source adds that the United States knows that ousting Saddam from abroad will arouse Arab and European countries against it on the grounds that only the people can change their regime. The United States seeks to create a rift between Saddam's men and aides as a prelude to a power struggle, massacres, and a bloodbath.

According to the same Egyptian diplomatic source, Egypt asked an Iraqi diplomat in Cairo: Why did you broadcast on Iraqi television King Husayn's speech in which he attacked the Iraqi leadership and urged its overthrow and why did you distribute the speech for publication in all the Iraqi papers without comment?

The Iraqi diplomat replied: The speech was useful for Iraq so that the Iraqi people could learn that there are Jordanian ambitions in their country and that what is happening now is a conspiracy or part of a conspiracy against Saddam and against the Republic of Iraq.

People in Iraq do not yearn for monarchy so that the Jordanian king can talk to them about the Hashemites' history in Iraq. So Iraq and Jordan are playing games with each other and the United States is setting the stage for a power struggle.

So far Iraq has not asked Jordan to hand over Husayn Kamil, accused by Iraq of embezzlement, and has not even asked Amman that Husayn Kamil observe the customary political asylum rules. Iraq did not attack Jordan and filed no complaint against Jordan with the Arab League. Strangely, it is Libya that intends to lodge such a complaint in Cairo in a few days.

What is exciting is that Jordanian officials told Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in jest during his brief visit to Jordan that the fate of 345 members of Saddam's family is linked with Saddam. The Jordanian officials asked Musa if Egypt was willing to receive them all.

But Jordanian officials, through their personal acquaintance with the Iraqi president, say he cannot agree to go to Egypt in particular as a defeated political refugee. Saddam Husayn's main complex is that he very firmly sought to replace Egypt and the Egyptian role with Iraq as the leader of the Arab nation. He sought to make Baghdad, not Cairo, the hub of Arab influence and capital of the Arab decisionmaking that he tried to dominate. [passage omitted]

Ministry Unaware of Defector's Request To Visit

NC1009142195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1338 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources say that Egypt has no knowledge of reports that Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil al-Majid, former Iraqi industry minister, who has defected to Jordan, has asked to visit Egypt.

Reports said that the defecting Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil had requested permission to visit Cairo as part of a tour of a number of Arab countries to rally support for the exiled Iraqi opposition.

Al-Alfi Denies Rumors of 'Terrorist' Camps in Uganda

NC0909092695 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I
in Arabic 5 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Bari]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Major General Hasan al-Alfi has denied reports carried by some news agencies claiming that Egypt established camps for training terrorists in Uganda to threaten Sudan's security.

The minister of interior said: The Sudanese security organs have spread these false rumors in an attempt to beautify the image of Sudan before world public opinion after the Ethiopian authorities' investigations proved the involvement of the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime in the sinful attempt to assassinate President Mubarak. [passage omitted]

The minister made these statements after completing a tour yesterday of the Police Academy, where he inspected admission tests. [passage omitted]

Wali: Sudan Refuses To Hand Over Suspects

NC1009155695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1240 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Aswan, 10 Sep (MENA)—Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and Egyptian minister of agriculture, has said that the people of Egypt and Sudan are one people linked by eternal relations despite the current Khartoum government's stance against Egypt and its leader.

Dr. Wali said that the al-Bashir government obstinately refuses to hand over the terrorists charged with the attempted assassination of President Mubarak, even though it has handed over four Libyan terrorists to their country.

He said this at an expanded youth congress held today in Aswan Governorate, southern Egypt. The congress was attended by Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub, Local Government Minister Mahmud Sharif, and Dr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im 'Amarah, chairman of the Higher Council for Youth and Sports.

Dr. Yusuf Wali affirmed that Egypt respects its neighbors' rights, protects its borders, and does not attack its neighbors. Responsibility for toppling the regime in Sudan will be left up to the people of Sudan themselves, who have previously toppled two regimes. [passage omitted]

Editor Lists Options for 'Punishing' Sudan

NC0809182195 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic
8 Sep 95 pp 4-6

[Article by Chief Editor Makram Muhammad Ahmad: "The Two Are Killers; the Two Deserve Punishment"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The charges have been proven and the evidence has been confirmed. There remains no doubt that the Sudanese regime was up to its ears in planning the heinous crime in Addis Ababa. So what can Egypt do to a regime that has sunk so low and proved to be a threat to Egypt's national security? [passage omitted]

Can Egypt tolerate the crime on the excuse of its concern about the eternal relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples?

The Sudanese are suffering under the ruling regime in Khartoum and they are eager to see it go. So I do not think Egypt is justified in hesitating over a decisive action to deter a hateful regime that is impossible to correct. If Ethiopia took decisive measures to punish Sudan for choosing Addis Ababa as the scene of the crime, can Cairo, which was the target of the crime, remain silent?

We must pursue this regime, which turned Sudan into a terrorist base, on every international forum — at the Arab League, the OAU, the Organization of Islamic Conference, and the United Nations — so that it will receive the international punishment it deserves.

We must reach the training camps that shelter terrorist groups and defuse their role and effectiveness, especially as their locations are known and within reach.

Why should our position toward the Sudanese opposition remain confined to moral support, offering it nothing more than a chance to criticize the situation in Sudan in word, not deed?

Ethiopia stopped Sudanese flights to Addis Ababa because the Sudanese Government used its airlines to transport terrorist plans and tools. Why should we not do the same?

Finally, how long can Hala'ib remain without a decisive solution that ends the fabricated problem that the Sudanese regime uses as a cover for its acts and crimes whenever domestic pressure on it intensifies?

In short, Egypt has many options for punishing the Sudanese regime without affecting the interests of the fraternal Sudanese people. But the worst choice is to remain silent or to believe this lie about growing differences between al-Bashir and al-Turabi.

Both are killers; both deserve punishment.

'Amr Musa Returns From Paris Meetings on Bosnia

NC0909061395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0525 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo early this morning from Paris, following a two-day visit to France.

During the visit, 'Amr Musa took part in meetings of the two Islamic and international contact committees on Bosnia to discuss a peaceful settlement process in the former Yugoslavia.

Newspaper Attacks Yeltsin's Position

NC1109055295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0505 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Sep (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR criticizes Russian President Boris Yeltsin's position on the Bosnian dispute, noting that it was not surprising that Yeltsin was the leading opponent of the disciplinary operations NATO is launching against the Serb gangs besieging Sarajevo.

The paper writes in an editorial today that the Russian president has provided not only moral support to the

Bosnian Serbs, but also physical support by furnishing them with sophisticated weapons.

AL-AKHBAR describes the Russian president's position on the Bosnian conflict as hostile to the Muslim people of Bosnia and representing actual participation in the crime of ethnic cleansing that the Serbs have declared openly. The paper says Yeltsin's attempt to put pressure on the mediation committee to end the Bosnian dispute peacefully aims to give the aggressors the lion's share of land in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Musa Views African Mechanism Meeting

NC1009185595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1500 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Cairo this afternoon on a two-day visit to Addis Ababa heading his country's delegation. He will be chairing Egypt's delegation to the meetings of the Mechanism for Conflict Resolution in Africa Through Peaceful Means, which will begin tomorrow in the Ethiopian capital. 'Amr Musa stated before his departure that the Mechanism for Conflict Resolution will discuss everything relating to African security and other points considered outside the scope stipulated by the OAU Charter.

Answering a MENA question on whether Egypt will bring up the issue of Sudan's harboring of terrorism and the failed attack on President Husni Mubarak's motorcade in Ethiopia, 'Amr Musa said that the topic has already been presented in the African arena and might be presented during these meetings.

He added that the use of violence is a very dangerous issue because it terrorizes society and attacks civilians and the symbols and sovereignty of a country.

'Amr Musa clarified that after the official Ethiopian statement was issued providing the facts determined by the investigation, Ethiopia officially requested Sudan hand over the three defendants whom Ethiopia had proof were involved in the attack on President Husni Mubarak's motorcade, either by masterminding it or supervising, preparing, or actually participating in the attack.

He said that in this case, we have moved from making accusations to providing the facts and evidence revealed through the investigations. He pointed out that this constitutes a new and dangerous situation.

'Amr Musa clarified that Egypt's relationship with the people of Sudan cannot be described in mere words, because it is an organic, historic, and powerful relationship that will endure regardless of the behavior of the Sudanese regime.

He added that our relations with the regime in Sudan do not necessarily have to be bad. While we have previously had differences of opinion with the current Sudanese regime, it has nevertheless followed a very dangerous policy—that of sheltering and encouraging terrorism, and then making use of it.

The foreign minister said that terrorism was used against a head of a state. We as Egyptians, whether citizens or officials, must take this very seriously and appreciate how dangerous it is, because we cannot justify such behavior or find any excuse for it. Sudan, that is the Sudanese regime, first of all committed such a crime, and also encourages, shelters, and trains the likes of these terrorists. It has also become the line of defense behind which they run and hide.

'Amr Musa said that the failed attack on President Husni Mubarak is a very crucial and startling issue because every Egyptian, whether a supporter or an oppositionist, thinks only about how his president was attacked.

He added that now that it has been proven that the Sudanese regime and its security organs were involved in this incident as well as in overseeing it, this has been shown to be a very dangerous incident that we cannot remain quiet about.

The foreign minister explained that it is natural for this topic to be brought up in the meetings of the Mechanism for Conflict Resolution in Africa so that Africa can officially be informed about it. This attack took place on the opening day of the recent African summit, an attack against the president of an African country and in an African capital. It also constitutes an attack on Egypt and Ethiopia and on the OAU; thus, it is an attack on the whole of Africa.

New 'Terrorist' Organization Members Arrested

NC0909085395 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
6 Sep 95 p 8

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Security agencies have managed to arrest the members a new terrorist organization in Shubra al- Khaymah. The organization had planned to commit a series of terrorist operations, blow up important and vital institutions, and kill soldiers guarding banks, churches, and movie houses to steal their weapons. The group consists of 15 terrorists who have weapons and explosives.

Counselor Hisham al-Saraya, attorney general for the Higher State Security Prosecution, ordered that 13 of the terrorists who are members of the organization be put in prison for 15 days for interrogation, and that the fugitive defendants should be detained and brought before the courts.

The prosecution accused the defendants of joining an illegal terrorist organization whose objective is to fight the laws and constitution, acquiring weapons and explosives with the objective of using them in operations to violate the law and public security, and reaching a criminal agreement to commit premeditated murder and armed robbery.

Investigations revealed that the new organization is led by terrorist 'Afifi Mustafa Ibrahim, a 23-year old worker at the National Institute for Kidneys and Urinary Tracts. He formed the organization on 15 January and it embraces the ideas of the al-Jihad organization which calls for branding the ruler and his aides blasphemous and for going against him by using armed jihad.

The leader of the organization admitted that he formed the terrorist group, and that he took care to include a number of welders among its members to manufacture weapons and change toy pistols into fire-arms by changing the barrels.

The terrorist explained to the prosecution how this is done. [passage omitted]

Brotherhood 'Denounces' Military Court Referrals

NC0909080595 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Sep 95 p 5

[Statement by the Muslim Brotherhood group on the government's referral of Muslim Brotherhood detainees to military courts; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] With the approaching date of the People's Assembly elections, the authorities are resorting to all methods to prevent Muslim Brotherhood [MB] members from participating.

After detaining for over eight months an elite group from the youth of this country—who are models of morality, piety, work ethic, sacrifice, specialization, and knowledge—the authorities have surprised us by referring them to military courts in a clear measure to deprive them of their human and citizens rights. The members of this group have committed no crime other than devoting themselves to their country's and their people's interest and calling for the return to the Islamic creed, shari'ah, and course. Their only weapons are good words and advice. Their method of work is to offer, achieve, and make sacrifices.

With the approach of these elections, we expected the government to adopt correct steps and measures to abolish the emergency and anti-terrorism laws, reinstate freedoms, and affirm the judiciary's supervision of the elections to ensure their neutrality and fairness and secure the right of all citizens to participate in them and perform their role and duty. However, the government has resorted to using military courts to prevent these detainees from running in the elections. The government has thus affirmed its rejection of other opinions and its insistence on preventing the moderate Islamic current from playing its role and carrying out its duty.

The MB denounces this measure and calls on the national forces and parties—which have submitted their well-known memorandum to the president of the republic demanding that the elections be fair—to play their role in ending this aggression on the freedom and security of the detainees which the government has referred to military courts. These national forces and parties are called upon to adopt all legal measures to stop this aggression, affirm the rights of the Egyptian citizen to security and freedom, and uphold the constitutional guarantees which the government is trying to sequester.

This issue concerns every Egyptian on the land of Egypt, which has a noble history which rejects oppression and calls for justice, freedom, and fairness.

"And God hath full power and control over his affairs; but most among mankind know it not." [Koranic verse]

Four Members Arrested for Leaflets

NC0909084595 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 Sep 95 p 8

[Report by AL-JUMHURIYAH office in Port Said]

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Security Investigations Department in Port Said has arrested four members of the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood [MB] group. These members had in their possession a number of leaflets which they were distributing to spread the organization's ideas among the youth of Port Said.

Mubarak Visits Defense Minister in Hospital

NC1109095195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak visited Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production, in the al-Jala' military hospital in Heliopolis this morning.

President Mubarak was reassured of Field Marshal Tantawi's health after his recovery from an appendectomy three days ago.

The president was received at the hospital by the chief of staff, Lieutenant General Salah Halabi, the commanders of the Armed Forces main corps, the chief of the Armed Forces Medical Services branch, and the director of al-Jala' hospital.

Libya

Border Tightened, Arabs Deported in 'Security Alert'

MM0809132095 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 7 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Mahmud Ma'ruf: "State of Emergency in Libya for Fear of Fundamentalists... Horrific Stories About Palestinians' Deportation"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tripoli, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — It seems that the revelation that Islamic fundamentalist cells attacked a prison in Banghazi and freed detained Islamists two months ago has caused a state of security alert for Libyan authorities. This is reflected fully in all their actions and has caused them to backtrack on their previous slogans of opening Libya to all Arabs without entry visas or passports and removing border checkpoints.

Those visiting Libya these days receive inhumane treatment if they are Arabs, and the decision to deport them could be more merciful than any other decisions taken by the border guards. Because it is much better than entering the country after being held for up to 24 hours or having your passport confiscated.

Former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella, winner of al- Qadhdhafi's prize for human rights, was harassed at the border. His passport was confiscated for five days by security men. It was returned to him only when he threatened not to attend the celebrations. The same thing happened to representatives of some Palestinian factions who had been invited to attend the celebrations marking the 26th anniversary of the 1 September revolution.

Arab diplomatic sources in Tripoli have said that the Libyan security authorities have removed all [non-Libyan] Arab citizens from the eastern region (Banghazi, Darnah, and al-Bayda') for fear of the existence of Islamists planted among them. The deportations included Egyptians, Palestinians, and Sudanese. The same thing has been done in the central region (Surt), where all the Arabs residing there were excluded from the celebrations as a precautionary measure to avoid any problems or troubles.

It is reported in Tripoli that Sudanese President 'Umar al- Bashir, who was the only the Arab leader to attend the celebrations, did so to protect the Sudanese against expulsion and to prove that Sudan is not behind any fundamentalist movement in Libya.

The expulsion of Palestinians from Libya has been continuing since Col. al-Qadhdhafi's speech on the revolution's anniversary. Palestinian sources have told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that Libyan security forces attacked Palestinian families in their homes and threw them out onto the street under the threat of force. And that these forces embarked on indecent actions that one finds it difficult to mention because they conflict with Arab and Islamic values.

The Palestinian Muhammad Ibrahim al-Hamalawi died of a heart attack after listening to President al-Qadhdhafi's speech, in which he urged Arab states to expel Palestinians and deport them to the areas under the self-rule authority. [passage omitted]

Authorities Reportedly Expel 7,000 Egyptian Workers

NC1009185695 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Egyptian border police today reported that Libya has expelled approximately 7,000 Egyptian workers who do not have work permits from its territory in the past four days. The Libyan Embassy in Cairo today denied any decision had been made to expel Egyptian workers from Libya.

At al-Sallum border point, Egyptians crossing the Egyptian-Libyan borders stated that they decided to leave Libya when the authorities there tried to seize their passports and to demand their work permits.

Libyan authorities began an expulsion campaign against illegal workers following the Banghazi incidents, which, according to Egyptian eyewitnesses returning from Libya, left 20 extremists and 10 policemen dead last week. Libya, however, has denied these reports.

Meanwhile, Egyptian sources at the al-Sallum border post report that approximately 200 Palestinians have arrived at the borders aboard Libyan buses and that most of them were carrying valid Libyan work documents. The same sources add that Egyptian buses will take them to the Rafah crossing point on the Egyptian border with Gaza.

'Hundreds' Flee Police Crackdown on Foreigners

NC0909131295 Paris AFP in English 1250 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Al-Sallum, Egypt, Sept 9 (AFP) — Hundreds of Egyptians and Sudanese are fleeing Libya to escape a police crackdown on illegal immigrants, Egyptian travellers told AFP here on Saturday [9 September].

They said many had been made homeless as Libyans feared to give them shelter because of a sweep following Wednesday's clashes in Banghazi in which around 20 Moslem militants and 10 policemen were reported to have died.

"Hundreds of Egyptians and Sudanese have been caught by the Libyan authorities because they don't have a work contract which has forced them to leave the country to avoid problems," one traveller said.

Security has also been stepped up since Wednesday's unrest, Egyptian travellers said. Tripoli, itself, has denied any deadly clashes took place in the eastern city.

Libyan security men at the al-Masa'id border post with Egypt had "a list of suspects, and were questioning people in detail and combing vehicles," another traveller told AFP.

The travellers at the al-Sallum border post said hundreds of Sudanese had also been sent back in the past few days across the Libya-Sudan border.

The repatriations were confirmed by a spokesman for the Sudanese embassy in the Egyptian capital who told AFP that "several hundred" people had been affected.

Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir has ordered preparations to be made for the influx, newspapers in Khartoum reported.

Government agencies have been instructed to be ready and a special committee has been set up to oversee health care, transportation and issue travel documents.

Wednesday's troubles followed clashes in June in Banghazi blamed by Tripoli on "infiltrators from Egypt and Sudan." Mass arrests followed and about 3,000 Egyptian nationals whose papers were not in order were expelled.

Libyans were urged not to lodge foreigners, especially those from Egypt and Sudan, whose contracts or residency permits had run out.

About 1.5 million foreigners work in Libya including between 800,000 and 900,000 Egyptians, according to official figures in Cairo.

Meanwhile, Lebanon said its doors would stay closed to Palestinian workers being thrown out of Libya even those who had Lebanese travel documents, because it could not cope with mass arrivals.

On Friday, Beirut ordered the closure of sea routes between the two countries, amid reports that hundreds of expelled Palestinians were heading for Lebanon.

'Draconian' Measures Reported Against Fundamentalists

LD0809230595 Paris Radio France International in French 2130 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Libya is being confronted with Islamism. According to witnesses' accounts, clashes between fundamentalists and security forces led to the deaths of about 30 people in Banghazi the day before yesterday. The official Libyan news agency is denying it, but eye witnesses arriving in Egypt have confirmed that a vast anti-fundamentalist operation is indeed now under way in Libya. Alexandre Buccianti:

[Buccianti] According to Egyptian travellers returning from Libya, draconian security measures have been taken in Libya's second city, where more and more people are being detained and more and more search operations are being carried out. Police roadblocks have been put up on the road from Banghazi to the Egyptian border. Vehicles coming from Egypt are being searched minutely for weapons or explosives for the extremists.

Even Egyptian fishing boats operating off Libyan territorial waters have been boarded and those on board arrested on suspicion of involvement in arms smuggling.

Similar incidents, which led to about 10 deaths, took place in June in the Banghazi area. They were officially attributed to Muslim extremists who had infiltrated from Egypt and Sudan. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi repeated his virulent attacks against Islamists in his 1 September speech. The increase in such attacks by the leader of the revolution is a sign of the rise of Islamism in Libya. Nevertheless, of all the countries of north Africa, the Jamahiriyah is still the one least affected by the Islamist phenomenon.

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Masses on 'Spies, Traitors'

LD0909235895 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1951 GMT 9 Sep 95

[Address by leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the masses of Bani Walid on 9 September — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brothers, you are entitled to lift your heads up high today because you confirm your destruction of the U.S. conspiracy that targeted this historic fortress — Bani Walid. [applause and cheers] You are entitled to lift your heads up high today because you have triumphed over the U.S. base conspiracy, which targeted you, your honor, and reputation, and which wanted to harm your history as well as your future. You alone, brothers, are the ones who could not mentally and physically rest until you cornered the treason and encircled it from all sides. You disavowed it and tightened your grip around its neck until it breathed its last at Bani Walid. [crowd cheers] You alone brothers are proud of this stance of yours because you did not at all accept a spy, traitor, or a lackey in your midst without you disavowing him and cornering him and tightening your grip around his neck until he breathes his last. [applause and cheers] This example should be followed. There is no place for treason. There is no foothold for the conspiracies of the United States. There should be no capability for the spies, traitors, and lackeys to live among you or constitute a fifth column for the benefit of the forces of the enemies. You have set an example that should be followed — to condemn treason, then encircle treason, and finally destroy the nest of treason. Treason at Bani Walid is totally rejected and is being trampled underfoot. [cheers]

In every confrontation anywhere the enemy tries to hit his target at its weakest point — the sick minds, the traitorous and cowardly hearts, those of bad upbringing, those who have no ethics, and those who have no patriotism. In every confrontation and everywhere the enemy might succeed in recruiting the cowards and vile persons who have sick hearts from among the ranks of his adversary, but this is not the important issue. The important issue is: Does the community from among which the enemy managed to snare this weak prey accept this? The important issue, brothers, is that when the enemy and his intelligence managed to recruit the cowards and those who are weak in their souls — those who lack faith, the turncoats, the hypocrites — the whole of Bani Walid rose to plug this loophole, through which the enemy always imagined he had managed to penetrate our front and enter into our rank, precisely at Bani Walid.

The masses of Bani Walid marched and plugged this loophole, through which the enemy wanted to enter into our rank, dwellings, our daughters, wives, and sanctities. The enemy wanted by way of these spies, traitors, and lackeys to enter into your homes, and to your wives, your bedrooms, and your sanctities. But the important thing is that Bani Walid did not accept it at all, did not keep silent about the treason. It wanted to take revenge on the traitors. It wanted also to send a strongly worded message to the enemy intelligence: Bani Walid is not the place that the enemy can make a gain in or find a foothold for himself in. But why, brothers, did U.S. intelligence decide to create a loophole in the Bani Walid fortress? Why? Had this place been right from the past, a place for lackeys, then this would not have been strange. This is because U.S. intelligence knows that Bani Walid is one of the fortresses of the al-Fatih revolution and a great force of the revolution. [cheers and applause]

U.S. intelligence admitted officially through its despicable spies and in the handwriting of its cowardly agents, it admitted that it had targeted Bani Walid because Bani Walid is a revolutionary bastion, because it is one of the guards of the revolution, because it has (?championed) the revolution. Consequently, U.S. intelligence wanted to make the revolution lose one of its strong fortresses and create doubt about one of its loyal guards. By this deed, U.S. intelligence wanted to destroy the history of Bani Walid and the reputation of Bani Walid and show Bani Walid to the Libyans as the fifth column of the imperialist enemy. But God forbids, Bani Walid is not a fifth column.

Bani Walid today is sending a message to the United States, the U.S. intelligence services, and the U.S. agents, declaring that Bani Walid will trample on them with the feet. To hell with the U.S. intelligence services and the U.S. conspiracies and dreams, which today are foundering on the fortress of Bani Walid and the rock of Bani Walid, as the armies of the Turkish colonialism and the armies of Italian colonialism had been wrecked. The conspiracies of U.S. intelligence are destroyed against this steadfast fortress.

Brothers, on the other hand, why all the Libyans, all the Libyan people, and all the Libyan tribes, as well as all of us, have voiced condemnation, and why all those who were shocked and stunned when they heard that there was a group, who are counted on the fingers of one hand, had been recruited for the benefit of the enemy and for the benefit his intelligence services. It is because the strange aspect of this was not that the enemy was able to recruit agents because the enemy always recruits agents everywhere.

U. S. intelligence services recruited Arab kings, Arab presidents, and Arab ministers. They also recruited officers and commanders to serve them and these sold their homelands. They sold pan-Arabism; they sold Islam, the sanctities, God's house; they sold God and Palestine to the United States and to its intelligence services.

This is not strange, dear brothers. But why was there such an astonishment and surprise when we heard that these intelligence services, which are now served by kings, presidents, sultans, and shaykhs in the Arab homeland.... [pauses] How can we be surprised if we find that four or five vile and despicable individuals were at the service of these foreign intelligence services? What is surprising is that such a thing happens in Bani Walid. This should happen as far away as possible from Bani Walid. This is the surprising thing. How can this happen in Bani Walid? How can this happen in Bani Warfallah? This is the surprising thing.

It is no surprise that U.S. intelligence services recruit the king of Jordan, that they recruit Sadat, this is no surprise. That they recruit the leader of the Palestinian resistance [Yasir 'Arafat], this is no surprise. But the Libyan people and the tribes of the Libyan people were surprised to hear that such a thing can happen in a place beyond any suspicion [Bani Walid].

How can U.S. intelligence services control the people who should have been the least likely candidates for treason, treachery, and backstabbing? This is the place to which U.S. intelligence services should not have hoped to get closer. This is the surprising thing.

This is the fortified fortress of Bani Warfallah and Bani Walid. So how could the U.S. intelligence services manage to enter it or get closer to it and think of recruiting from its people? This is the surprising thing.

We will not be astonished to see this phenomenon appear in some areas, because nothing comes as a surprise to the Libyan people. There are foreigners and there are foreign families who have settled; and there are those without any roots and without any lineage or identity who, whenever a foreigner comes along, offer themselves to serve him. This is no surprise. But how can the U.S. intelligence services influence the people of noble character, the children of the homeland and the children of the fighters. This is what surprises the Libyan people.

Furthermore, as highlighted by the confessions of the spies and the confessions of the agents of U.S. intelligence services, why was there a special emphasis on Warfallah and why was there a special emphasis on Bani Walid since they said: We must recruit from them to serve the U.S. intelligence services and we must reach Bani Walid and infiltrate Bani Walid. Why? Because Bani Walid, according to foreign sources, particularly Turkish and Italian sources, given that colonial Turkey clashed with Bani Walid and that barbaric and colonial Italy has a history with Bani Walid, and the Americans and U.S. intelligence services, which colluded with the Italian and European intelligence services, they all exchanged information.

Bani Walid is the center that was targeted by Turkish colonialism. Imperialist Turkey said: Bani Walid must be subdued so that the rest of the Libyan tribes will be subdued. [passage omitted]

Italian records said that subduing Bani Walid would lead to subduing southern Libya and all the east. It would open the way to all Libya, south, east, north, and west. Consequently, the Italian records said that Italy decided to subdue Bani Walid at any cost. Italy moved up forces from all directions; from Misratah, Zleitin, Sidadah, Tarhunah, and Ghiryan so that they overcome Bani Walid. They descended on Bani Walid from all directions. This is because if Bani Walid was conquered the way would be wide open to the invaders and they would penetrate the south. [passage omitted]

The Dardanelles is the strait separating the Mediterranean from the Black Sea in Turkey. This is the strait that was the scene of fierce Turkish resistance when the fleets of the allied states, the Western states, were smashed. It is said that 'Abd-al-Nabi Abalkhayr wanted the wadi of Bani Walid to be the Dardanelles of Tripoli, against which Italy's campaigns toward southern Libya would be smashed. If wadi Bani Walid were to be opened, the road to southern Libya would be opened.

These notions, this position, this history, and these considerations led the U.S. intelligence services to make another attempt and say: We must open a gap in Bani Walid in order to open a gap in the revolution, the ranks of the revolution, and in the forces of the revolution. This is the reason behind this conspiracy.

These notions must be clear to you. This action, which is orchestrated and planned with precision and intelligence, is aimed at one of the main positions and is aimed at you, morally and materially. It is aimed at bringing disgrace upon you, destroying your bravery, humiliating you, and tarnishing your history. Western colonialism also wants to take its revenge on Bani Walid once more.

Italy and NATO, to which Italy belongs and which the United States leads.... [pauses] This alliance has a score to settle with Bani Walid. July 1915 is a month that cannot be forgotten in the history of colonial Italy. It tried on several occasions to break the siege imposed on its garrisons by your fathers and grandfathers in Bani Walid. The Italian attempts made from the east, west, and north all failed. On 5 July 1915, there was nothing left for Italy to do but surrender to Bani Walid and Bani Warfallah.

All of Italy's garrisons surrendered to your fathers and grandfathers and lowered the Italian flag and gave themselves up as prisoners on that glorious day.

This is a revenge between you and Italy, between you and NATO, and between you and the United States and its intelligence services. This is a revenge that cannot be forgotten, dear brothers. Italy will never forget that day in July 1915; that disgraceful day in Italy's history in Bani Walid. It will not forget when your fathers and grandfathers lowered the Italian flag and trampled on it. It will not forget when Major Briganti surrendered to 'Abd- al-Nabi Abalkhayr and remained captive until he died in captivity.

Since Italy mobilized those armies and marched with all those campaigns from every direction to control Bani Walid, this means that Bani Walid, in the history of western colonialism, is an important key. Therefore, it decided to repeat the same attempt made by Turkish colonialism and the same attempt made by Italian colonialism.

This time it made its attempt with spies and by recruiting cowards to turn them into its spearhead to open the way for it, just as the traitors opened the way for Italian colonialism until it reached every part.

History repeats itself, but what does the history of the Libyan people say to those agents who sold themselves to colonialism and its intelligence services and who opened the way, inside their beloved country, for the hordes of colonialism? History curses them and curses their (?education) and their descendants. History will not have mercy on them. They have left ignominy for their children and their grandchildren. As for the brave, the martyrs, and the resistance fighters, they have left glory and pride for their children and grandchildren. [passage omitted]

U.S. intelligence services wanted to bring disgrace upon Bani Warfallah and Bani Walid but they have failed because the conspiracy of U.S. intelligence services was smashed against the free and revolutionary fortress of Bani Walid, just as Italy's and Turkey's campaigns were smashed. [crowd chants revolutionary slogans] Thus, dear brothers, you are setting an example, namely the rejection of treason and the crushing of treason. As from today, no traitor, no spy, no agent, no coward, no weakling, and no despicable person can hope to live among us anywhere. We will corner him as we have cornered the traitors here, we will tread on them, and we will physically liquidate them. With their blood we will wash off the disgrace they have left on our soil and in our ranks.

Woe unto anyone, anywhere in the revolutionary land of Libya, who gives his hand to the enemy, conspires with U.S. intelligence services and NATO's intelligence services and turns himself into a donkey that will be ridden by the intelligence services to enter our fortress. He will be a Trojan donkey and not a Trojan horse. Woe unto the traitors and woe unto the spies and woe unto the agents everywhere.

Such is their fate, as it has now been made public in Bani Walid. In Bani Walid, even their closest relatives have disowned them and asked for their physical liquidation. This is the fate of the traitors and spies, and the fate of those who want to bring disgrace upon you in front the other tribes, the other peoples.

They want to place our soil, for which your fathers and grandfathers paid a heavy price in blood and lives, in the hands of the United States, our arch enemy.

This is the fate of traitors. The traitor should be hunted down, cornered, and disowned, first by his family, his clan, his tribe, his people, and his land. There will be no place for the traitors to hide.

You the sick, you the spies, you the worst of cowards: There will be no place for you to hide on Libyan land. There will be less and less place for the traitors, agents, and cowards to hide on Libyan land, which is vast and welcoming for the sovereign people, the free people, and the free youth who defend the revolution, dignity, and glory and who will not retreat on the day of the invasion, who will confront the United States and who will beat the drums of confrontation when the United States is beating the drums of war.

These are the real men; the brave men for whom the land will never be too small. They fight in the mountains and the plains and on the shores and in the desert. These are the lions on whom we rely to defend the freedom of our sons, daughters, and wives and honor and land. As for the traitors, spies, and agents who will find no place to hide on this land, not even in their own homes, and who wanted to bring U.S. soldiers into their homes, to their mothers, their sisters, and their wives, they are cursed and they will be liquidated.

Glory to the revolution and the free men, and immortality to the martyrs of Bani Walid from the battles of Dinar, Ghabbin, Mimun, and al-Shumaykh. The fight continues, dear brothers. [applause]

Morocco

Iraqi Minister Delivers Message From Saddam

LD0809134595 Rabat MAP in English
1235 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Sep 8 (MAP) — Iraqi Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir arrived Thursday [7 September] in Morocco with an oral message from President Saddam Husayn to King Hassan II.

The Iraqi envoy told the press upon arrival that the message deals with the evolution of the situation in the Arab region, Iraq's relations with the Security Council and with the UN Special Commission In Charge of Iraq's Disarmament.

Sudan

Egyptian Weekly on Location of 'Terrorist' Camps

NC0809173295 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic
4 Sep 95 p 10

[Report by Yusuf al-Sharif]

[FBIS Translated Text] Between 20 and 30 camps shelter and train terrorists in Sudan. They include terrorists of various Arab and Islamic nationalities. They are staying in Sudan following the National

Islamic Front's decision granting Sudanese nationality to Islamists, specifically fundamentalists. Most of these camps are farms in isolated areas that have either been usurped or are owned by individuals who belong to the National Islamic Front. The camps are located on the outskirts of Khartoum and in al-Damazin, Kassala, Darfur, al-Jazirah, Kushi, and Sannar. Terrorists are trained in popular defense camps that embrace the motto of Islamizing Africa and of Islamic Jihad in confronting rebels in south Sudan.

Reports from Sudan confirm that the most important camp, where serious training takes place in assassinations, the preparation of explosives and ambushes, and the forging of passports, is the Jabal al-Awliya' camp, which includes 500 terrorists, returnees from Afghanistan. There is also the 'Arus camp, which includes terrorists from Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Yemen, and the Gulf countries. There are the Jabal al-Markhiyat camp, which is located near the Military College, the Qashashah camp, near the eastern border with Ethiopia, the al-Kkadur camp, 10 miles east of Khartoum, and the Shambat and al-Mazra'ah camps, where high-level training and assassination rehearsals and ambush training take place before terrorists leave for abroad.

Objective reports confirm that the Sudanese Islamic National Front has granted Sudanese nationality to approximately 3 million people over the past six years, since al-Bashir staged his coup in 1989. This is an enormous number indicating Sudan's total support for extremists and terrorists. The number of fundamentalists and terrorists who are sheltered for specific periods and trained in distant camps and farms totals approximately 4,000. They are trained under the supervision of four independent security organizations and fall directly under Hasan al-Turabi.

'Over 15' Reportedly Hurt in University Incidents

*NC1109102195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0925 GMT 11 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 11 Sep (MENA)—MENA's correspondent in Khartoum has learned that incidents that started in Khartoum University on 9 September are continuing and have become serious. The university was the scene of bloody acts of violence during which students belonging to the National Islamic Front and the Sudanese National Grouping used knives. Over 15 students were wounded. One, who was seriously hurt, was taken to the intensive care unit at the Khartoum University hospital.

Our correspondent also learned that the Front refused to take its wounded to hospital. The Grouping took its wounded to hospital.

Sources say a discussion was organized in the university yesterday. As a student belonging to the Grouping was speaking, a Front loyalist stabbed a Grouping element in the back, seriously wounding him.

Grouping students organized a march inside the university on Saturday [9 September] and raised banners demanding the release of three colleagues arrested in an earlier incident at the university. The first incident occurred after a meeting between Sudanese President Hasan al-Bashir and university students in July.

Bahrain

Shiite Opposition Leader Released From Jail

NC0909192495 Paris AFP in English
1541 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Sept 9 (AFP) — Shiite opposition leader 'Abd-al-Wahhab Husayn was freed by Bahraini authorities after five months in jail for his alleged participation in violent demonstrations, opposition officials said Saturday [9 September].

Husayn was freed Friday as part of an accord between the opposition and the Bahraini government, they told AFP when contacted by telephone from Nicosia.

He was arrested after the government accused him of participating in sporadic bloody demonstrations that erupted in the Gulf archipelago in December 1994 but had virtually died out by April.

Bahraini officials, however, have not released another 150 prisoners as promised, opposition officials said.

According to these officials, the agreement with the government provides for the release of prisoners in exchange for an end to the unrest in which at least 12 people died.

One hundred and fifty prisoners were released on August 16, another 150 were to have been set free Thursday followed by another 500 to 600, including Shiite opposition leader Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Jamri, at the end of September.

The troubles flared after the arrest of Shiite leaders calling for the restoration of parliamentary life suspended since 1975.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives on 'Short' Visit

JN0909095795 Manama WAKH in Arabic
0830 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 9 Sep (WAKH) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Manama this morning on a short visit to Bahrain as part of a tour of a number of the region's countries.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad will convey a message to Amir of Bahrain His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah from his brother Amir of Kuwait His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah. [passage omitted]

Delivers Kuwaiti Amir's Message

JN0909100595 Manama WAKH in Arabic
0922 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 9 Sep (WAKH) — Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah has received a written message from Kuwaiti Amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah. The message deals with bilateral relations and a number of regional and international developments and issues of mutual concern.

The message was delivered by the Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister during his meeting with the amir of Bahrain and with Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah here this morning.

The two sides discussed a number of issues currently raised in the Gulf arena at this crucial juncture. They also discussed the means of boosting mechanisms of joint cooperation between the two fraternal countries and peoples.

For his part, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah paid tribute to the wise policies of his highness the amir and the Bahraini Government which seek to serve and bolster the march of the Gulf Cooperation Council and support the Arab nation's causes. He expressed pride in the continued growth of relations between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Oman

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives, Delivers Message

LD0909175295 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1705 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Muscat, 9 Sep (KUNA) — Sultan of Oman Qabus Bin-Sa'id received a message today from His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait.

The message was delivered by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, first deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, during his meeting with Sultan Qabus in Salalah, which he arrived at an earlier time from al-'Ayn in the United Arab Emirates.

The Omani news agency said that the message "was connected with bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries, and the means to strengthen and consolidate the Gulf Cooperation Council's march for the benefit of its peoples, in addition to discussing recent developments in the region and the Arab arena." [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Views Iraqi Situation

NC1009192595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Sep 95

[Remarks by Foreign Minister Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah; place and date not given — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] As you know, Iraq is under UN sanctions because it invaded Kuwait. A total embargo has been imposed on Iraq under Security Council resolutions. Iraq was asked to comply with these resolutions so that the embargo, specifically the oil embargo, could be lifted.

What is important at this stage is for Iraq to meet its obligations, especially the remaining ones concerning Iraqi military programs of weapons of mass destruction—both biological and chemical—and its missiles.

Also there is the stick point of the Kuwaiti and other prisoners who are believed to be still held by Iraq. The focus is now on these points.

According to the reports submitted by Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN commission on Iraqi disarmament, Iraq still has much serious work to do before the United Nations can finally close all its files and make sure that it has covered all issues relating to Iraqi armament systems that have been banned by Security Council resolutions.

The other point which certainly worries us is the fraternal Iraqi people's continuous suffering due to the continuing UN embargo. Everyone knows that the Iraqi people's suffering has exceeded extremes that no one can bear. We hope and pray to God the Iraqis will find a way to end this tragedy and suffering.

As for your question on the latest developments following the defection of Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan from Iraq to Jordan, I believe the media exaggerated when reporting on this event. The media gave it more attention than it deserves and included much speculation that I believe is out of place.

As for your question about Iraq's future, it depends solely on the will of the Iraqi people. Such a media campaign is to be expected after the defection of a man such as Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil, who is one of the best known Iraqi leaders. Undoubtedly this excited the world press; it was the object of attention by everyone worldwide connected with Iraq or interested in Iraqi affairs.

As for Jordan, it is Iraq's neighbor, and Iraq depended heavily on it during the past five years. Jordan is now Iraq's only avenue to the world. Jordan was bound to act as a gateway for all Iraqis, both the leadership and ordinary citizens. We note that many Iraqis reside in Jordan. Anyone who is sick or unable to earn a living goes to Jordan to get what he wants.

No doubt, Jordan is an important country for Iraq. In Iraq's current situation, trade and economic interests exist between the Jordanians and the Iraqis. Both sides are very anxious to continue these interests. However, I see absolutely no justification to turn these things into political issues or to speculate that the two countries might conclude any political agreements, such as on forming a federation, as was reported by the world media, or to speculate about Jordanian desires to overthrow the leadership in Iraq. I consider these world press reports unfounded.

Qatar

Amir on Gulf, Iraq Ties, Peace With Israel

NC1109061695 London MBC Television in Arabic 1715 GMT 10 Sep 95

[Interview with Amir Shaykh Hamad Bin Khalifah Al Thani by 'Irfan Nizam-al-Din in Doha; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Nizam-al-Din] Are there any particular plans for developing the economy? Regarding the economy and other sectors, some sides claim that Qatar is among the most insular of countries. Is there a trend toward openness?

[Hamad] I believe we are open. But it seems some people want to think otherwise. There might be some things relating to our traditions, habits, and religion that set us apart. But we are open people. Had you come at the beginning of August you would have noticed that three-fourths of the Qatari people are abroad. The Qataris like to see the world. So they are open people.

[Nizam-al-Din] There is some talk of an Omani or Dubai-style experiment regarding greater economic and social openness.

[Hamad] If you are asking about economic openness and whether this means foreign funds and their participation in Qatar's economy, then I tell you that we have opened up this field. We have a huge company now investing in Qatar. Foreign capital is now allowed to work in Qatar.

[Nizam-al-Din] Are there projects allocated to a greater private sector?

[Hamad] This is true. And we are now concentrating on successful heavy industries and will be transferring part of them to the private sector or to citizens, including non-Qataris.

[Nizam-al-Din] You mean public sector companies? Are there any particular fields?

[Hamad] The fertilizer and petrochemical industries. We have successful projects in these areas.

[Nizam-al-Din] I believe there are now many hopes for Qatari gas projects.

[Hamad] We hope we might reach some countries with our gas through a pipeline. This is cheaper for us. From an economic aspect it would also be better.

[Nizam-al-Din] With regard to the economy, particularly oil, could you tell us anything about your plans?

[Hamad] We have no influential policy on oil, because we have limited production. But we are greatly affected by the fall in the price of oil because we do not have sufficient production to pump extra oil into the market if prices drop. We cannot do this.

[Nizam-al-Din] Is there a liquidity crisis in Qatar regarding capital and internal investments?

[Hamad] We have an economic crisis. We cannot deny this, because it is linked with the fall in the price of oil. But we will get over it.

[Nizam-al-Din] With regard to organizing trade activities, there is some talk of agencies and other things. Some people in the private sector are asking that there should be laws governing the process of appointing agents and so on.

[Hamad] We are progressing toward a free market economy. This is our trend, which we started over three or four years ago.

[Nizam-al-Din] There is one more question relating to Qatar before we move on to the Arab, Gulf, and other issues. I noticed during my visit here that pictures of your father, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah, are everywhere. I believe this is a sign of loyalty from your highness.

[Hamad] He is a father to everyone. His pictures will remain hanging everywhere and he will remain in our hearts.

[Nizam-al-Din] Are there any thoughts of when he will return?

[Hamad] We hope to see him here in Qatar. Our hopes are high that he will return soon.

[Nizam al-Din] Your Highness, let us move on to a Qatari-Gulf affair. Your visit to Saudi Arabia was described as a master stroke, because it was the first since you assumed power. What are your impressions about this visit and your meeting with the custodian of the two holy mosques?

[Hamad] Saudi Arabia is a primary country in the Arabian peninsula. Everyone knows this. We have historical relations with the Saudis. My visit to Saudi Arabia is something normal. Saudi Arabia is a leading country in the region.

[Nizam-al-Din] Are there any results from this visit regarding bilateral ties and other issues?

[Hamad] I believe things will improve.

[Nizam-al-Din] Has there been any follow-up to this visit? Have contacts continued between you and Saudi Arabia?

[Hamad] Contacts with our brothers in Saudi Arabia are continuing.

[Nizam-al-Din] The custodian of the two holy mosques said some time ago that before the upcoming Oman summit the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, God willing, will have solved all their border problems.

[Hamad] I firmly believe they will if the custodian of the two holy mosques says so. I believe it was a good step by him to submit a report to the GCC heads of state at the Manama summit. I believe the report prepared by the custodian of the two holy mosques is being followed up well.

[Nizam al-Din] Does this also apply to the dispute with Bahrain?

[Hamad] I want to make myself clear regarding the dispute with Bahrain. In 1990 we and Bahrain agreed in a minute that the issue be sent to the International Court of Justice. We also agreed that should Saudi mediation efforts succeed, the dispute would be withdrawn from the International Court of Justice. If the Saudi mediation efforts failed, the verdict would be announced by the International Court of Justice. For Saudi mediation efforts to succeed, both parties must be prepared to accept a solution.

[Nizam-al-Din] For your part, are you prepared to accept a solution that may be proposed?

[Hamad] Directly after independence we sought Saudi mediation efforts, that is, before we went or even considered going to the International Court of Justice. For 20 years we have been trying to resolve this issue with our brothers in Bahrain. But we reached a stage where an amicable solution was not possible. Saudi Arabia proposed that we go to the International Court of Justice.

[Nizam-al-Din] Your Highness, you are young and heading a new reign. Many brothers expect you to take the initiative and to play a more effective role in helping to solve problems.

[Hamad] What problems do you mean?

[Nizam-al-Din] All issues.

[Hamad] The issue concerning the border between us and Bahrain is 60 years old. It is not new. Finding a solution to this issue is better for us and for Bahrain. Frankly speaking, as ruling families in the region we support Bahrain and our brothers there. We must prove to our peoples that we can resolve any issue in a way that is satisfactory to our peoples. When we go to the International Court of Justice, and each party puts forward his case, I believe this is fair. If the International Court of Justice rules that the island of Hawar belongs to Bahrain or Qatar, this is fair. If the International Court of Justice rules that Hawar belongs to Bahrain, all I can say to my people is that we took the issue to the International Court of Justice and it proved that Hawar belongs to Bahrain. I would then apologize to Bahrain for any problem we had caused them. [passage omitted]

[Nizam-al-Din] The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries in the past two decades suffered dangers, including the Iran-Iraq war, the Gulf war, and the occupation of Kuwait. There are questions, I do not say charges, concerning some kind of unilateral Qatari positions different from those of the GCC. In the case of Iraq for example, developments there have led to talk of plans, a formula, or a specific scenario following the defection of Saddam's sons-in-law. How do you view the situation now?

[Hamad] As regards the defection of Saddam's sons-in-law, I believe it was a dispute within the ruling family in Iraq, like the disputes that happen in the Qatari ruling family, in Bahrain, or in any other country. I do not see any significance in the defection of one or two people from Iraq.

[Nizam-al-Din] The incident could be an isolated one, but the situation in Iraq, whether positive or negative, will affect you, affect the GCC countries, all the Arab countries, and the entire Arab scene. Whether the current regime stays or goes, there are dangers facing you.

[Hamad] What we fear most is the partition of Iraq. The Iraqi people's suffering is hard. There is nothing on the horizon to indicate who will save this nation. If anything happens in Iraq, whether positive or negative, it will affect us in the GCC countries in particular. God forbid, if Iraq were to be partitioned, all blame would be cast on the GCC, while other countries would escape this problem. So the charge would be leveled against us.

[Nizam-al-Din] There are feverish contacts between Arab and foreign countries. Has there been any contact with you following the latest developments?

[Hamad] No, no one contacted us.

[Nizam-al-Din] It has been said that Husayn Kamil asked to visit Qatar. Did he?

[Hamad] No he did not. But if he wishes to visit Qatar, we will welcome him. We have no problem with this but we will not welcome him to annoy the Iraqi Government.

[Nizam-al-Din] There is a question in the Arab world about the alternative for Iraq. How can the Arabs and Iraqis emerge from this situation?

[Hamad] I believe there must be Arab solidarity but when we speak about Arab solidarity, openness is requested before reconciliation. Naturally if the openness is designed to increase the rift, there is no call for such openness. Iraq is continuously being asked to repatriate Kuwaiti prisoners. We have asked the Iraqis—I believe others did too—but the Iraqis deny they are holding Kuwaiti prisoners. This is confusing.

[Nizam-al-Din] There is information coming from Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil and others that Iraq is holding prisoners. But their number is not 600. I believe the number is 216.

[Hamad] Has Husayn Kamil said this?

[Nizam-al-Din] Yes, it has been published and broadcast lately that the number was under 600. Will you continue your mediation with Iraq on this issue based on your relations with it?

[Hamad] The Iraqis and Kuwaitis know we are trying to do so, that is, if there are prisoners.

[Nizam-al-Din] Has there been any contact with Iraq lately?

[Hamad] No, not recently.

[Nizam-al-Din] Do you intend to call a GCC meeting, for example, to discuss what are undoubtedly serious developments? There is something in the air and everyone says the sky is overcast.

[Hamad] I believe that the one who should call for such a meeting is the country that chairs the GCC, not Qatar. [passage omitted]

[Nizam-al-Din] As for talk of a Middle East project and the establishment of joint ventures, do you believe the time has come for such projects or is it too early?

[Hamad] Do you mean projects between Qatar and Israel?

[Nizam-al-Din] Between Qatar and Israel or between other countries.

[Hamad] There is a gas project involving Israel, Jordan, and ourselves. We are proceeding with it.

[Nizam-al-Din] Has work begun on it?

[Hamad] The project so far is in the discussion phase. But in Qatar we are willing to sell gas to Israel or to others. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

*JN0909112895 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1045 GMT 9 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 9 Sep (WAKH) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Doha this morning on an official visit to Qatar that will last for a few hours.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah's visit to Qatar comes as part of tour of the region.

Delivers Message, Departs

*JN0909124895 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1130 GMT 9 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 9 Sep (WAKH) — Amir of Qatar His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani has received a written message from Amir of Kuwait His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah. The message deals with regional, Arab, and international developments as well as means of boosting bilateral relations in al fields.

The message was delivered by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, during a meeting with the amir of Qatar here today.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad left Doha at noon today following a short visit to Qatar within his tour of a number of the region's countries.

Saudi Arabia

Invitation to Iraqi Minister Linked to Awqaf Forum

MM1109124995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Sep 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Hasin al-Bunyan: "Authoritative Sources Say Regarding Iraqi Awqaf Minister Visit: Visit Not To Do With Any Talks or Contacts With Saudi Arabia"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Authoritative sources in Riyadh stressed yesterday that Iraqi Awqaf Minister 'Abd-al-Mun'im Ahmad Salih's visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is not to do with any contacts or talks with Saudi officials. The sources said that Dr. 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Turki, Saudi Islamic affairs, awqaf, and guidance minister, has indeed sent an invitation to the Iraqi minister, but not in his official capacity as a member of the Saudi cabinet, but in his capacity as chairman of the executive council of the conference of the awqaf and Islamic affairs ministers of the Islamic states, of which Iraq is one of nine members, which include Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Kuwait, Jordan, Gambia, Indonesia, Morocco, and Pakistan.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that the invitation was sent to the Iraqi minister through diplomatic channels at the Saudi Foreign Ministry. However, they did not specify the quarter that received the invitation, even though it is likely that the invitation was sent to the Jordanian capital. [passage omitted]

AL-RIYAD Warns Against Partitioning Iraq

*LD1009125295 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
0820 GMT 10 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 10 Sep — The Saudi newspapers appeared today carrying the following main headlines. [passage omitted]

Concerning Iraq, AL-RIYAD newspaper said that if Saddam Husayn has brought about Iraq's new crisis, and has consecrated a dangerous reality for its unity, the proposals from outside were preparing for a confederation among sections of the people, while others viewed the partitioning [of Iraq] as a service to their long term policies in the region, and a third felt that any flaw in Iraq's unity would herald the gateway to another Afghanistan, except that its fires would affect all the neighboring countries.

The newspaper pointed out that the common denominators among the countries connected with long or short borders with Iraq, and intertwined with it in pan-Arab or sectarian issues, such as the status of the Kurds in the north, or the Shiites in the south, could propose the need for a regional, instead of a territorial, action because the assumption is that one side might benefit from the geographical partitioning of Iraq, or from surrounding it with allegiances paid to those countries, which means the participation of other elements, as happened in Lebanon and Afghanistan. This would draw the region into battlefields in which neither the claims of each nor their dangers would be restricted to Iraq only, but to all the countries.

The newspaper went on to say that there are those who believe that if Saddam Husayn found himself besieged in a narrow trench, he could engage in dangerous suicidal caves [as received], or he could accept other formulas for relinquishing his prerogatives and the privileges of his family, and through the clash of interests, he could probably find among the neighboring countries those whose security circumstances allowed for the opening of their border with Iraq. All these solutions are debatable in the rivalry of regional and international political policy, but the more persistent considerations are that the Arab countries, together with the other neighboring countries, should consider that the game is more dangerous than any conceptions about making some regional gains. These warnings should be understood by all as being a battle that no one will win so long as the first spark of the larger fire has started in the region, and its effects would probably affect larger and distant areas. [passage omitted]

Referendum To Approve Saddam's Reelection Announced

RCC Issues Law Organizing Referendum

JN0909185995 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Sep 95

["Text" of RCC Law No. 13 "on Popular Referendum"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Republic of Iraq,
In the name of the people,
The RCC
Number of Decree: 87
Date of Decree: 8 September 1995

Based on the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided to issue the following law, Law No. 13 for 1995, the Law on Popular Referendum:

Article 1: The provisions of this law shall be applied to the general popular referendum for the post of the president of the republic, or to any referendum decided by law.

Article 2: Every Iraqi—man or woman—has the right to participate in the referendum, provided that he or she:

First: Is at least 18 years of age;
Second: Is competent;
Third: Has a clean record of military service;
Fourth: Has not been convicted of any crime of honor.

Article 3: A commission called "The Higher Commission Supervising the Referendum" shall be formed under the chairmanship of the RCC vice chairman and in which the speaker of the National Assembly, the minister of interior, the minister of justice, and the president of the Court of Cassation are members. This commission will then be referred to as the Higher Commission.

Article 4: The Higher Commission shall be in charge of the following:

First: Defining the referendum areas in governorates and referendum centers in an area;
Second: Forming commissions in referendum areas to supervise the progress of the referendum process;
Third: Preparing referendum requirements and following up all matters related to it to guarantee the progress of referendum in accordance with law.

Article 5: The commission supervising referendum in an area is chaired by a judge or a member of the general prosecution office who is chosen by the minister of justice. The commission also comprises two members from the party organization and two members from the People's Council in the area.

Article 6: The commission supervising the referendum in an area forms committees to supervise the voting process in referendum centers under the chairmanship of a judge or a member of the general prosecution office, and when necessary, a legal affiliate with the Ministry of Justice or the other ministers, chosen by the minister of justice. The committee is also made up of two members from the party organization and three citizens who are known for their good conduct and integrity from the geographical area of the center.

Article 7:

First, the head of the supervising committee shall be entrusted with maintaining order at the voting center. He shall be authorized to take whatever necessary measures to guarantee the sound progress of voting. The Internal Security forces are not permitted to enter the voting centers except pursuant to a request from the head of the committee.

Second, the supervising committee shall decide on any complaint lodged with it regarding the referendum process through a causative decision that shall be included in a special report.

Article 8: Lists of the names of citizens who have the right to participate in the referendum shall be prepared at every referendum area, including the Armed Forces and Internal Security forces personnel. These lists shall be distributed to the referendum centers, the Armed Forces and Internal Security forces camps, and the areas where these forces are present. The lists shall be put in alphabetical order, and shall include the citizens' addresses, birth date, and birthplace.

Article 9: The supervising committee in the area shall be entrusted with distributing the voters lists to the referendum centers to be announced to citizens through charts prepared for this purpose at an appropriate time before the set date of the referendum after sealing them with the supervising committee's seal, and fixing the date of their announcement.

Article 10:

First, every citizen who meets the conditions for participation in the referendum whose name was not registered on the referendum roster, shall have the right to request to have his name registered. He shall have the right to ask to register the name of any citizen whose name was not registered without justification, or for deleting the name of any citizen who registered his name on the list without justification. The application shall not be accepted if it was submitted within the five days of the referendum date.

Second, the application shall be submitted to the supervising committee in the area to decide on it within a period that should not exceed three days of the date of submission. The decision shall be final.

Article 11: The civil registration card shall be approved as the identity card of the participants in the referendum, whose names are registered in every referendum center. The Higher Commission shall have the option of approving any other official document defined by instructions to recognize the voters.

Article 12: Through the instructions it will issue, the Higher Commission shall determine the following:

First: The shape and description of the referendum cards, the side in charge of printing them, and how to fill them.
Second: How to enable the voter who cannot write to cast his vote.
Third: The shape, size, and number of ballot boxes, their specifications, the way they should be closed and opened, and the side responsible for preparing them.

Article 13: The date of the referendum shall be set by a republican decree which will be issued at least 15 days prior to the date set for the referendum. It will be announced to citizens through all the news media.

Article 14: The referendum shall be held on a single day.

Article 15: The voting shall begin at 0800 and end at 2000. If necessary, the Higher Commission can issue a statement specifying other times, not exceeding the hours set for the referendum, or extending the time of the referendum for a period not exceeding 24 hours.

Article 16:

First: When the period set for the referendum is over, the head of committee at the voting center shall announce the conclusion of voting and note this fact in the referendum report.
Second: The head of committee shall open the ballot box at the voting center and the committee shall start vote counting in public.
Third: The results of vote counting shall be registered in the report, which shall include:
a. The number of voters.
b. The number of correct cards.
c. The number of void cards. Any card not stamped by the committee's seal, and any card that does not have any reference to issue for which the referendum is conducted shall be declared void.
d. The number of votes supporting the issue for which the referendum is conducted.
Fourth: The head of committee shall read in public what is written in the report, and then sign it, together with other members of the committee.
Fifth: The head of committee shall give the report of the referendum, together with the voting cards and all other documents, to the commission supervising the referendum at the area in a sealed envelope stamped according to standards.

Article 17: The commission supervising the referendum in the area shall organize a report showing the results of the referendum in the area and then sign it. It shall then give this report to the Higher Commission, together with the voting cards and all other related documents.

Article 18: The Higher Commission chairman shall issue a statement announcing the results of the referendum.

Article 19:

First: The Higher Committee chairman shall be delegated the necessary powers to fulfill the Commission's tasks in accordance with the provisions of this law.
Second: The Higher Committee can issue the necessary instructions and regulations to facilitate the implementation of the provisions of this law.

Article 20: This law shall go into effect as of the date of its issuance.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman

Reasons for enacting this law:

Based on the democratic course adopted by the great 17-30 July Revolution; to entrench this course and underline the role of the people and their right to express their opinion in the exercise of power and in its institutions, and since the people are the source of power and its legitimacy; and since referendum is a genuine exercise of democracy which must be held in a correct democratic framework, this law was enacted.

Baghdad To Invite 10,000 Observers

NC1009085695 Paris AFP in English
0840 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Sept 10 (AFP) — Iraq will invite 10,000 foreign observers to oversee the country's first referendum to approve the re-election of Saddam Husayn as president, a senior Iraqi official said Sunday [10 September].

"Among those who will be invited will be parliamentarians and journalists from the United States, Europe and Arab countries, except for Kuwait," said 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice president of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council.

He was addressing the opening of a special session of parliament called to approve the candidacy of Saddam for another seven-year term.

"The observers will be completely free to follow the referendum, from the voting to the announcement of the results," he said.

The council nominated Saddam for president on Thursday but agreed it should go before a referendum. He has been unchallenged as head of state since July 1979.

Late Saturday Iraqi officials drew up a framework for the vote due to take place within 60 days after parliament approves Saddam's nomination.

Commission Discusses Voting Procedures

JN1009171895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 10 Sep (INA)—'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council and head of the Higher Commission Supervising the General Popular Referendum on the post of president of the Republic, has chaired a meeting of the Commission.

During the meeting, the attendees discussed meeting the requirements of this civilized, constitutional, and legal practice in a precise manner and in a way that will facilitate the voting procedures, so the citizen can carry out his national duty in a democratic and free way.

They also discussed working out special namelists for those entitled to participate in the referendum, as well as preparing the specialized judicial and legal cadres and distributing the voting centers in various areas. They also discussed meeting the requirements of these centers in accordance with the law on organizing the general popular referendum, which was passed by the Revolution Command Council on 8 September.

Assembly Approves Saddam's Nomination

JN1009164495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1555 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 10 Sep (INA)—The Iraqi people's representatives at the National Assembly have unanimously approved the nomination of President Saddam Husayn for the post of president of the Republic of Iraq for a seven-year renewable term in accordance with the constitutional amendment passed by the Revolution Command Council [RCC] on 7 September.

This took place during the National Assembly's extraordinary session, which was held this morning and was attended by RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim. The session discussed President Saddam Husayn's nomination for president of the Republic and explained the dimensions of the constitutional amendment passed by the RCC.

'Izzat Ibrahim delivered a speech in which he submitted President Saddam Husayn's nomination to the National Assembly members. He said: We have brought you this important issue not to test your minds, hearts, consciences, or souls, but to register a historic position for our great Iraqi people, who have the great right, and also for our nation and all good ones in the world whose hearts and minds hope that we will do more work, hold fast, fight, offer sacrifices, defeat the enemies, and achieve a final victory, so there will be an eloquent lesson for the enemies of God and humanity to learn, and so the free ones will proceed forward with high confidence in God, in themselves, and in victory in order to achieve their objectives throughout the world.

Addressing the National Assembly members, 'Izzat Ibrahim added: We are today presenting you the nomination of our leader, not to test you, but to prove to the evil forces that this is the stand of the Iraqi National Assembly, the legal representative, toward the leader. This is a major national task. We believe that this great people, the people of history, will, God willing, express their opinion, which will, in terms of its nature and depth, deal a fatal blow to all evil plans and forces that want to harm us. This would then be a victory over the enemies of God and humanity.

The RCC vice chairman stressed: This is the stance of the people's representatives in the National Assembly — who were freely elected by the people — toward the leader. We will tell them that you tried with all the destructive power you had to divide the Iraqi people and to separate the people from the leader. Now feel with your hands and see with your own eyes the Iraqis' conduct and examine their association with their great leader.

He announced that Iraq is ready to receive 10,000 media correspondents and parliamentarians from all Arab parliaments, with the exception of the Kuwaiti regime, and from the U.S. Congress and the parliaments of Britain, France, Italy, Germany, and all Europe, and to allow them to freely monitor the elections starting from the Higher Commission supervising the elections, to the voting centers, and back to the Higher Commission where the results will be announced. He added: We will reconfirm to the world what we have already confirmed throughout 26 years with our blood, souls, and sons in this honorable stand of jihad.

He urged the Assembly members to play their role, not only within the framework of the National Assembly. He said: We have great confidence in you. Our confidence in you means confidence in the great people. You are members of the National Assembly who have witnessed, with their jihad and struggle, the greatest battle of al- Ba'th Party and the greatest battle of Iraq throughout its history; that is, the immortal battle of the Mother of Battles.

The representatives of the Iraqi people began to shout in one voice: "Yes. Yes to leader President Saddam Husayn."

After that, Ghanim 'Aziz Khuduri, acting speaker of the National Assembly, asked Dr. Sultan al-Shawi, head of the National Assembly's Legal Committee to read the joint report prepared by the assembly's speakership and the heads of the committees tasked to discuss the issue of nominating President Saddam Husayn for president of the Republic.

In his report, Dr. Sultan al-Shawi said all sectors of the Iraqi people — which, under the leadership of Saddam Husayn, confronted all challenges imposed on them, and achieved victory — must continue with him in his victorious march to achieve the objectives of great Iraq and the glorious Arab nation.

Summing up his report, he recommended approving the nomination of President Saddam Husayn for president of the Republic.

The acting speaker of the National Assembly then opened the floor for discussing the nomination of President Saddam Husayn for president of the Republic and for clarifying the dimensions of the constitutional amendment according to the Revolutionary Command Council's decision.

In their discussions and proposals, the representatives of the Iraqi people unanimously agreed to nominate His Excellency President Saddam Husayn for president of the republic because he enjoys genuine Arab traits and has played a militant and pan-Arab role throughout a march of 26 years since the glorious 17-30 July revolution.

Ghanim 'Aziz Khuduri told the press during the extraordinary session that historic discussions took place during the session in view of the importance of the topic submitted to the National Assembly members as it has to do with the Iraqi people's options, future, and democratic course, and because it will take Iraq from one stage into another where it will witness an important constitutional change that will bring about new legal and constitutional foundations regulating democratic life such as the election of the president of the republic and the implementation of human rights in all fields.

Khuduri explained that the National Assembly will extend invitations to all the parliaments, with the exception of the Kuwaiti regime's parliament, in view of our past experience with it. He said: We invited the Kuwaiti parliament more than one time in the past and its reply to these invitations was never an objective one.

The extraordinary session was attended by 205 of the 250 members of the National Assembly.

Correspondents of Arab and foreign television networks and news agencies and correspondents of the local press and the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY covered the extraordinary session.

Ibrahim Delivers Speech on Saddam Nomination

JN1109093095 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1748 GMT 10 Sep 95

[Speech by 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council, at an "extraordinary session" of the National Assembly in Baghdad on 10 September — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Praise be to God, who helped us achieve glory and serve this great country and its great people in countless ways throughout its march over the past 26 years of the age of the glorious 17-30 July revolution.

Praise be to God, who made us belong to the best nation that promotes virtue, suppresses vice, and believes in God. Thus have We made of you an Ummah justly balanced. That ye might be witnesses over the nations, and the Messenger a witness over yourselves. [Koranic verses] Indeed, the Messenger will bear witness that the nation has fulfilled its historic role in spreading the heavenly message, principles, and values to all parts of the globe.

Praise be to God, who made us belong to a nation that has fulfilled its trust and delivered its message, as God wanted it to do. Praise be to God, who made us belong to a nation in whose sons, land, skies, and waters God has placed all elements of creativity, growth, and development, so it can continue to play its role until God inherits the land and all those on it, and God is the best inheritor.

Praise be to God, who made us belong to the sons of an historic party bearing a message. Since the first day of its blessed birth, this party has embraced the nation's principles, values, and traditions and upheld the banner of its giant march to achieve a future that befits the status of this great nation. This is to enable this nation to play the historic role ordained for it by God.

Praise be to God, who did us a favor. God tells Prophet Muhammad: Do not tell me that you have done me a favor when you embraced Islam; God did you a favor when He guided you toward faith. God has done us a favor. Praise be to God for the favors He has done us. God made us belong to this nation and to this great people, who are the base of the nation, a major pillar of its house, and a strong foundation for its efforts in the arenas of its jihad to build the future and build a civilization. This is meant to revive life not only on this land but on this globe, as it did in the past throughout its long history since the day it taught humanity how to read and write and how to rule justly.

The glory of the nation and its long history are evident in the Hammurabi Mausoleum, which is now in the museums of the despotic tyrants. Those tyrants are the enemies of humanity, its values and principles, and the enemies of God. They are infidels and profligates. The zenith of their evil is American imperialism and its allies, agents, and hateful Zionism, represented in its spearhead, Israel.

The glory of the nation started with the first bricks of civilization in the time of Sargon of Akkad, who was followed by Hammurabi, and then Nebuchadnezzar and Ashurbanipal.

Then came the time of the glorious message and its great leader Prophet Muhammad, God's prayer and peace be upon him, who is our leader, symbol, and title of our jihad and sacrifices.

The birth of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party — the historic, message-bearing, and great party — heralded the birth of the leader, President Saddam Husayn. The leader grew up at a time when an atmosphere of apprehension and tension prevailed. Most of the nation suffered under hateful occupation and backwardness. God took care of the leader. The leader belongs to one of the houses from which prophets, leaders, and reformers came. The leader was brought up on the values and principles of these houses.

Then God enlightened him and made this great party for him so he can meet his destiny, his party, and his nation — for him to be the leader who revives this nation and its march and history and achieve glory for it. This fact was known to the sons of the party in the first years of the march before the 17-30 July revolution. Those who knew this held fast to the truth and prepared themselves to defend it. Some defended this truth; others antagonized it, and those were very few.

The strugglers, led by the historic leader president, fought to renew the internal conditions of the party so that this party would be qualified as an establishment, and as individual strugglers, leaders, and members, to shoulder and defend the trust efficiently and make sacrifices for this trust efficiently in a manner that satisfies almighty God, the chosen nation, and the people, who gave mandate to this party, gave birth to this party, and attached all their hopes and aspirations to the principles of this party, and the march and struggle of this party.

Brother National Assembly members: The real effort to distort this fact and the fierce and active effort against this historic leader began almost on the first day of the 17-30 July revolution. Most of your wrote and witnessed the revolution's history because the majority of you lived that history in direct interaction as strugglers of our party in this assembly and national interaction through the national popular and official establishments or through the movement of our great people. Our people have the decisive and active role in building that march.

As you know, the party, the great Armed Forces, the state establishments, and even the popular establishments and organizations are based on and derive all strength from this great people. The Iraqi people have been the blessed revolutionary and faithful vanguard over thousands of years. They have been the nation's strong shield throughout its long history for thousands of years, and they were the base of this nation. This history was understood by the enemies. Therefore, when this great Iraqi people began to make progress, people looked at them with concern, fearing that this great people will make creative efforts and sacrifices along the road of great Arab revolution and the road of realizing the objectives of the great Arab people. These objectives are represented in their unity, freedom, and the building of a happy future that gives an identity to a human being and makes this human being an active, talented, and creative element in this life and conveys the principles and values of this new life all over the world.

I mean that you know this history and how the conflict began and how many duels have taken place since the first days of the revolution when the party and its historic leadership led by leader President Saddam Husayn confronted the espionage networks that operated freely in this country. These networks represented all colonialist powers: the United States, France, England, and all colonialist powers. The Ba'th Party, backed by the great Iraqi people, fought them, and these networks were completely eliminated.

Under his leadership, intensive efforts were made in order immunize the people in terms of principles, morals, and psychology, and then the confrontations began. These landmarks of struggle are known by the great Iraqi people under the leadership of the great party, and under the leadership of the great historic leader. Since the first internal and foreign conspiracies in the early 1970's, to the great day of nationalization, which was fully planned and directly executed by the historic leader president whom we in the Revolution Command Council nominate as a candidate for the post of president of the republic, we have been his companions in the struggle.

I say to those of you who are interested in Iraq's history in general, and those who are interested in the history of Ba'th in particular, to study again the great history of the revolution over 26 years and to concentrate on the conspiracies in order to see that the plotting targeted the leader president personally because the plotters knew that what happened in Iraq was not an instance of a ruler and ruled people, not a regime and a people; rather, it was an historic instance; an historic generation from a historic people; an historic pioneering party from a historic people; and an historic leader from historic people and party. They represent one instance as a people, party, and individuals. Therefore, they realized very early that targeting the leader president's life is the ideal solution for them. They could not kill all of the Iraqi people.

They tried to kill the Iraqi people in the immortal Mother of Battles. They tried to kill a huge number of the Iraqi people in order to place them in a position where they would say: We will all be killed if we do not abandon Saddam Husayn. However, the Iraqi people's answer was more blood and more pure souls sacrificed for the sake of Iraq, the Arab nation, and its immortal mission through the people's devotion to and support for Saddam Husayn.

When they failed, they began to concoct plots all over the world in order to harm this great leader, and subsequently put an end to the glowing light Iraq shone on the Arab nation and the whole world, illuminating their path of jihad, struggle, and sacrifice for the sake of building a free, secure, and happy future for man. Every episode in the series of plots was aimed at achieving this objective.

Today, dear brothers, we come to you with this significant matter, not to test your minds, hearts, souls, or consciences. We come to record a new historic stand for our nation and people—first to our great Iraqi people, who have a great right, and then to all of our people in the Arab nation and all those righteous in the world, who hope in heart and mind that we do more, remain steadfast, fight, sacrifice, defeat the enemies, and score final victory. Thus, the enemies of God and humanity will learn an eloquent lesson, and the free will walk their paths with great confidence in God, in themselves, and in victory in order to achieve their goals throughout the world.

We have not come to put the great Iraqi people to the test because the great Iraqi people act in harmony with their principles, values, and mission in life, a mission that Saddam Husayn has deeply and practically expressed over 26 years of his historic leadership, enlightened mind, courage, and all of his traits that are too many to detail or define here.

The great Iraqi people have expressed their opinions about this issue for 26 years. The first to witness this expression were America, Zionism, England, and all of the despots and tyrants and their agents inside and outside the homeland. The Iraqi people have struggled for 26 years: hands holding swords and rifles defending the land and principles of Iraq and hands that are building. The hand that defended the land recorded the most splendid chapters in history. The 26-year march of the glorious, courageous Iraqis became a very large headline in Iraq's long history and the nation's long history, an account of all of its bright episodes. The episode involving the jihad and sacrifices of the Iraqis over 26 years comes immediately after the headline of jihad in the days of the immortal message of Islam.

God has chosen the Muslims, and there can be no doubt about this choice. Prophet Muhammad says: God has chosen me and chosen my companions for me. The Holy Koran was revealed to Prophet Muhammad to give him inspiration and instructions on what to do and what not to do. Our case is different. Despite this, we left this great legacy for the nation, under the leadership of the historic leader Saddam Husayn.

Brothers: I do not want to make a long speech. I say concisely that we are presenting the nomination of our leader today, not to test you, but to prove to the evil forces that this is the stand of the Iraqi National Assembly, the legitimate representative. The evil forces sent their representatives of media men and parliamentarians. They attended the elections when you were elected as representatives of the people. They know that you are the true representatives of the Iraqi people. We want to tell them that this is the stand of the National Assembly, which was freely elected by the people, toward the leader. We also want to tell them: You tried with all of your destructive power to divide the Iraqi people and to separate the people from the leader. Now feel with your hands and see with your own eyes the Iraqis' conduct and examine their association with their great leader.

Last time we invited 400 people, but now the invitation is open. We are prepared to receive 10,000 representatives [applause], media people and parliamentarians from all parliaments; from the U.S. Congress; from the British, French, Italian, and German parliaments and all of Europe; from all Arab parliaments except the Kuwaiti regime, except Kuwait; from Saudi Arabia, Syria, and the Arabian Gulf states of Qatar, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates. They will be given full freedom to monitor our elections, starting from the Higher Commission, which will supervise the elections; down to the voting center; and back to the Higher Commission, where the results will be announced. This will be done to make the world understand what we have confirmed throughout 26 years with our blood, souls, and sons in this honorable stand of jihad. I invite you to play your role, not only within the framework of the National Assembly, because we have great confidence in you. Our confidence in you means confidence in the great people. You are the National Assembly, which, through its jihad and struggle, witnessed the greatest battle of the Ba'th Party and the greatest battle of Iraq and the nation throughout their history: the Mother of Battles.

You have a greater duty to perform in the service of great Iraq and its history and march throughout the arena of jihad, whether in this hall when you discuss the tasks referred to you for the sake of supporting the march, or in the arenas of your work, each in his position and according to his responsibility. This is a major national task, and we strongly believe that the great Iraqi people, who forged this gigantic march and who enjoy a glorious history, will say their decisive word, God willing—a word which will actually be a fatal blow to all sinister schemes and all evil powers which harbored and continue to harbor evil for us. That day will be the day of final victory over our enemies, the enemies of God and mankind. Thank you. [applause]

Acting Speaker Addresses Nomination Session

JN1109083795 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1742 GMT 10 Sep 95

[Speech by Ghanim 'Aziz Khadduri, acting speaker of the National Assembly, at an "extraordinary session" in Baghdad on 10 September — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God and in the name of the people I declare the session open. A quorum is secured.

Ladies and gentlemen, members of the National Assembly: On your behalf I welcome struggler Comrade 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], who attends this session today that will decide on the nomination of the leader president, may God preserve him, to the post of president of the Republic of Iraq, and to explain the dimensions of the constitutional amendment adopted by the RCC. He is welcome.

Ladies and gentlemen, members of the National Assembly: Our historic session convenes today in implementation of Republican Decree No. 274 issued on 7 September 1995, calling on the National Assembly to hold an extraordinary session on 10 September to discuss nominating Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman and leader president, may God preserve him, for the presidency in accordance with RCC Decree No. 86 dated 7 September 1995 and in accordance with RCC Decree No. 85 issued on 7 September canceling the texts of Paragraphs A, B, and C of Article 38 of the Constitution and replacing them with the following:

A. A chairman shall be elected from among its members, and he will be called the chairman of the RCC.

B. An RCC vice chairman shall be elected.

C. A decision on the resignation of the vice chairman or one of the RCC members will be made.

The amendment adds the following to the Constitution:

Article 57: The RCC shall nominate its chairman for the post of president of the republic, and shall refer the nomination to the National Assembly to consider it. The National Assembly will issue a resolution by a majority vote.

After the nomination is approved, it will be presented for a general popular referendum.

The general popular referendum will be held by a free, secret, and direct ballot within a period not exceeding 60 days from the date on which the National Assembly approved the nomination.

In accordance with the above-mentioned constitutional amendment, the RCC adopted Decree No. 86 on 7 September 1995, in which it unanimously decided to nominate its chairman, leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, to assume the post of president of the republic, and to refer this nomination to the National Assembly to look into it.

The constitutional amendment was prompted by the need to move from the formula of revolutionary legitimacy to the formula of constitutional legitimacy, and by the need to establish renewing and developing formulas for the democratic practices within the country's objective circumstances, taking into consideration the continuing plots since the 30-state aggression against Iraq at the beginning of 1991, the continuation of the unjust siege and the abnormal situation in the autonomous region which postponed this measure until now, and the current conspiratorial circumstances.

Brothers and sisters: The amendment endorsed by the RCC guarantees and underscores Article 2 of the Constitution: The people are the source and legitimacy of authority.

Thus, the representatives of the people, that is, the National Assembly, will cast their votes first; then the general referendum will be conducted by all of the people.

This amendment also is in harmony with the Islamic law: Who conduct their affairs by mutual consultation. [Koranic verse] Also, seeking opinions of others, in accordance with the amendment, is in harmony with the national and pan-Arab objectives underscored by the leader party through its militant experiments since the 17-30 July revolution, whose essence was safeguarded and developed by the party to reach the ideal democratic system to guarantee the political, social, and economic liberties of all people without any differentiation due to race, language, and religion.

Sisters and brothers: After briefly reviewing the nature of the historic mission shouldered by our assembly in this extraordinary session today, I ask the vice chairman to present the nomination of the leader president, may God preserve him, and to explain the objective of the constitutional amendment.

Assembly Vote Lauded as People's Decision

JN1109110295 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0730 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 11 Sep (INA) — AL-THAWRAH praises the National Assembly's unanimous vote last night to nominate President Saddam Husayn as president of the republic for another seven-year term, in line with the constitutional amendments adopted by the Revolution Command Council on 7 September.

In its editorial today under the headline "It Is the People's Vote and Decision," AL-THAWRAH, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says the National Assembly's unanimous decision to approve the nomination of President Saddam Husayn is the people's legitimate decision in the showdown between the trench of faith and the forces of evil which target Iraq's land, people, and civilization.

The paper adds that Iraq has employed all of its potential to build an advanced base for progress in which it can take pride before other nations. This plan could not have been achieved without the people's confidence in President Saddam Husayn, who has struggled along with his people to build a strong and powerful Iraq.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The evildoers imposed a blockade on Iraq, which has affected all sectors and subjected the people to difficult economic conditions. However, they have not been able to bend the people's will and resolve to remain free, to be masters of their land and resources, and to be strong defenders of the causes of their nation.

Referendum Response to 'Enemy Fabrications'

JN0909091295 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0700 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 9 Sep (INA)—The Iraqi newspapers have emphasized that renewing the pledge of allegiance to President Saddam Husayn in a democratic and constitutional manner will be the Iraqi people's response to the enemy fabrications and infamous, misleading propaganda.

In their editorials today, the newspapers AL-JUMHURIYAH, AL-QADISIYAH, AL-'IRAQ, and BABIL, commenting on the constitutional amendments, unanimously declared that the public referendum will express the Iraqi people's awareness of their historic role in refuting the fabrications of the enemies of Arabism, humanity, democracy, and human rights.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the Iraqi people will remain faithful to their historic leader Saddam Husayn, and that the public referendum will be the most eloquent expression of the masses' awareness of their role when they stress their adherence to the leader whom God has bestowed on Iraq to build a pan-Arab model for the Arab nation, humanity, and world peoples.

The paper adds: The referendum is a genuine democratic practice that will reflect the people's awareness of a fact that has been entrenched throughout decades of very close interaction, jihad, and construction of the Iraqi example.

The paper adds: Renewing the pledge of allegiance to President Saddam Husayn in a democratic and constitutional manner is a strong and categorical response to the enemy fabrications and a first step that will be followed by other steps pointing to our rising democratic trend in building our own path in accordance with our vision and course which combines both original and contemporary views and rejects copying and blind imitation of others' experiences.

The paper adds that the Iraqi experience after the 17-30 July revolution was able to foresee the factors and needs of development, always trying to set a careful balance between word and deed in all political, economic, cultural, and social fields.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Iraq has always adhered to its characteristic way of building democracy. Because of this principled adherence, colonialist and Zionist propaganda against Iraq has increased in an unprecedented manner. Iraq has been subjected to severe and nonobjective stabs, including the allegation that "Iraq has not fulfilled the overall conditions of democracy."

The paper adds that some of those mean and tendentious anti-Iraq propaganda campaigns have tried to make it appear that there is no democracy in Iraq. Meanwhile, the Western propaganda sought the support of some elements that are hostile to the national and pan- Arab liberation movement in Iraq to organize this malicious propaganda campaign against it.

The paper stresses that facts, more of which are being revealed everyday, expose the ugly reality of the United States. Leading and steering a spiteful anti-Iraq campaign, the United States is being exposed as a power that is hostile to the world nations and independent experiences.

Concluding its editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: Historic leader Saddam Husayn is our sun and moon and our high fluttering banner. He is our haven and shield in hard times and ordeals.

AL-QADISIYAH describes President Saddam Husayn's decision as responsible, and embodying a democratic practice that has been rare in revolutionary regimes in the Third World and the entire world.

The paper, specialized in military affairs, says that such a decision made in the difficult circumstances of the unjust blockade, the conspiracies of the enemies and imperialists, and the anomalous situation in the Kurdistan autonomous area shows the extent of the leader's faith in his people.

AL-QADISIYAH adds that the Iraqi people will demonstrate their mettle and understanding of democracy when they reiterate their absolute allegiance to their loyal leader Saddam Husayn who will secure them safe crossing and further Arab resurgence.

AL-'IRAQ newspaper says that during the march of the glorious 17- 30 July Revolution, Saddam Husayn's voice was the loudest in calling for moving from a formula of revolutionary legitimacy to complete constitutional legitimacy in terms of establishing the state's executive and legislative bodies.

In its editorial, the paper says that President Saddam Husayn's faith did not waver. Made at the appropriate time, the move toward constitutional legitimacy will block the road in the face of those who have evil intentions, slander Iraq, and make poisonous statements against it and claim that the revolution and its command cannot carry out the aspired move.

The paper adds that the sound relationship between His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and his loyal people does not need a referendum or elections in the conventional manner. However, the president, after the passage of three years, and more precisely in 1982, suggested to the command that elections should be held for the post of the president of the republic.

AL-'IRAQ says that as a result of the war Iraq was waging against Iran, the command postponed the elections until after the war. After 8 August 1988, the command became busy with the preparation of the new constitution. However, this was postponed in view of the difficult circumstances Iraq experienced following the immortal Mother of Battles.

The paper explains that despite the developments that took place as a result of the continuation of the imperialist conspiracy and the anomalous situation in the Autonomous Region, the president once again raised the subject within the command two years ago. The command, at the time, decided to postpone it until the termination of the blockade and the anomalous situation in the Kurdistan area.

The paper says: We now reiterate, as millions of Iraqis have done in the first pledge of allegiance in 1982, that our first and last option will be Saddam Husayn. He is our hope, the source of our pride, and the symbol of our loftiness and national unity and of our victories against the rancorous, the covetous, and the agents.

AL-'IRAQ says that if the popular referendum requires a ballot paper so that voters can put down the name of their candidate to the presidency, we have decided this issue 27 years ago when we chose Saddam Husayn with our hearts, and inscribed his name with our blood.

RCC Decrees Show 'Faith in Democracy'

JN1009112795 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0803 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 10 Sep (INA) — The newspaper AL-THAWRAH stresses that the Revolution Command Council [RCC] decrees on constitutional amendments were not motivated by the current special circumstances or pressures.

In an editorial today headlined "The RCC Decrees Are a Natural Response to Unchanging Principles," the paper says that those decrees represent a course based on leader Saddam Husayn's way of thinking and firm faith in democracy. This faith is constantly supported by action and practical steps in response to the people's will and right to chose their leaders and representatives and to participate in making crucial decisions related to the present and to their future.

The paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds that the exercise of democracy demonstrates a principled course of action reflecting a constant policy and ideological concepts based on the party's characteristic thought. In this framework, those concepts reflect a principled, genuine course of action and express the people's conscience and true will.

The paper recalls the democratic formulas pursued by the Iraqi people after the 17-30 July 1968 revolution. The paper says those formulas were based on firm, constitutional foundations, guided by the democratic course brought about by the revolution. The paper stresses that the revolution firmly believes that democracy is a source of strength for the individual and the society.

AL-THAWRAH highlights President Saddam Husayn's effective role in the emergence of the National Progressive and Patriotic Front, which was a major step toward building Iraq's democratic edifice within the framework of the revolution's respect for opposition opinions and its eagerness to open the door to true party pluralism. Therefore, the front played an honorable and early role in building and protecting the national experience.

The paper underlines President Saddam Husayn's role in the dialogue which led to 11 March 1970 Declaration. The paper notes that the president was eager to draft the declaration's distinctive humanistic content, which acknowledged our Kurdish people's national and cultural rights. The paper says the declaration set an historic precedent, noting that the neighboring countries did not dare take a similar step. On the contrary, the paper says, they went too far in repressing and killing the Kurds.

The paper refers to the difficult circumstances created by the enemies of Iraq and its people since President Saddam Husayn's assumption of the highest positions in the state and the party in 1979. That was followed by an escalation of aggression and imperialist-Zionist plotting, culminating in the blatant 30-state aggression in 1991.

However, the paper says, the obstacles posed by that aggression did not stop the exercise of democracy and establishment of constitutional pillars. Among the most important measures in this regard was the endorsement of the Republic of Iraq Constitution after extensive debates by the legislative and executive authorities, as well as party, popular, and professional organizations. The Parties and Press Laws were also enacted as a support for the exercise of democracy.

Husayn Kamil Ridicules Saddam Reelection Decision

NC0809165095 Paris AFP in English
1620 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman, Sept 8 (AFP)—A senior Iraqi defector on Friday [8 September] ridiculed President Saddam Husayn's decision to stand for re-election and said the presidential referendum should be open to all candidates.

General Husayn Kamil Hasan, Saddam's son-in-law and the architect of Iraq's weapons program, told AFP that "everyone eligible to be president and to serve Iraq should be able to run in the presidential election."

He added that the elections should take place under the auspices of the United Nations, the Arab League and Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), which has previously appointed the president, proposed Saddam for another seven-year term and his candidacy is to be rubber-stamped by a special session of parliament opening Sunday.

The re-election of Saddam — unchallenged as head of state since July 1979 — will then go to a referendum to be held within two months, under a change to the July 1970 constitution agreed Thursday.

"It is a farce and a desperate attempt by the regime to improve the image of a power that never knew democracy or human rights," said Hasan, who was granted asylum in Jordan after his August 8 defection.

The Iraqi people, Hasan added, "have the right to a democracy and is capable of choosing a direction that will save it from suffering and repair the errors of the last decades."

"We want a real democracy and we will not allow anyone to empty it of its contents," said Hasan, who called for toppling the Baghdad government shortly after his defection. "We demand the establishment of a multi-party system, free presidential and legislative elections, freedom of the press and independent courts."

The general said he planned to pursue his "political plan for the establishment of a democracy in Iraq and the protection of rights of those at all levels of Iraqi society." [passage omitted]

Criticizes Regime's Reelection 'Ploy'

NC0909172895 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] General Husayn Kamil Hasan has scoffed at the announcement in Baghdad yesterday [as heard] that some articles of the temporary Constitution will be amended to help Saddam Husayn remain in power and continue to persecute the Iraqi people and violate their basic rights to freedom, democracy, political pluralism, and a dignified life.

In a statement to our radio, Husayn Kamil said the announcement is a new ploy by Saddam Husayn now that he has sensed his increasing isolation and that the Iraqi people and the Armed Forces oppose his remaining in power. He challenged Saddam to hold a free popular referendum under the supervision of the United Nations, the Arab League, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and representatives of Arab and international organizations. The only alternative to Saddam Husayn's rule, he said, is a democratic system based on the will and desire of the Iraqis from all groups, classes, and political and social forces. He stressed that Saddam has no choice but to depart and allow the Iraqi people to choose their own leadership and to elect the executive and legislative councils.

Gen. Husayn Kamil described the amendments to the interim constitution as an obvious farce by which Saddam seeks to concentrate power in his own hands and continue his transgressions and crimes against the Iraqis. He said: Saddam knows full well that time is not on his side and that these games will not do him any good. He said the countdown to the collapse of Saddam's regime has begun, and he called on all Iraqis to mobilize their capabilities and energies to deal the final blow to this shabby regime, which, he said, is in its death throes.

Gen. Husayn Kamil appealed to the Iraqi national forces abroad to expose Saddam's new ploy and to call on the United Nations and the Arab and international forces to heighten the isolation of the regime and to firmly confront its suspicious, conspiratorial schemes.

Meanwhile, the announcement that some articles of the interim constitution—which has been in force for more than 25 years—will be amended to perpetuate Saddam Husayn's power, met negative reactions from all sectors of the people and all political circles in Iraq. People arriving from Baghdad yesterday reported that anxiety and tension have prevailed in the capital and other Iraqi cities and governorates since the announcement of these oppressive and dictatorial measures, which contradict with the most fundamental right of the Iraqi citizen to political and national choices. The arrivals report a wave of anger by the Iraqi man on the street over these developments, which show the extent of the Saddam regime's isolation and incompetence. All popular and political comments by the Iraqis are ridiculing Saddam and scorning his haphazard decisions, which reveal a naive nature and a shaken personality.

In a related development, on Friday [8 September] Saddam instructed all organizations of the ruling party and security and intelligence services to watch the Iraqis and detain anyone expressing an opinion about his recent decisions. He called for stricter control of politicians, intellectuals, university professors, businessmen, industrialists, economists, workers, students, and youths. He ordered that opponents be imprisoned immediately without being referred to courts or judicial authorities.

Al-Sahhaf Views UN Sanctions, Husayn Kamil

OW1009133195 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 9 Sep 95 Morning Edition p 7

[Report on exclusive interview with Foreign Minister Muhammad al-Sahhaf by MAINICHI SHIMBUN correspondent Tokuhiro Tajima at the Foreign Ministry in Baghdad on 7 September]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 8 Sep — Iraqi Foreign Minister al-Sahhaf granted an exclusive interview to MAINICHI SHIMBUN correspondent Tokuhiro Tajima at the Foreign Ministry in Baghdad on the evening of 7 September. In the interview, the Iraqi foreign minister gave a definite promise that Iran will cooperate with the United Nations in lifting the economic sanctions against Iraq. On Husayn Kamil, former industry and minerals minister and President Husayn's son-in-law who defected to Jordan in August, the Iraqi foreign minister harshly criticized him as a "corrupt betrayer" and stressed that there has been no change in the Iraqi establishment since his defection.

In the interview, the Iraqi foreign minister declined to comment on when the economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations against Iraq will be lifted, but expressed the hope that "data on weapons, that Iraq handed over last month to Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Committee on the Dismantling of Iraqi Weapons of Mass Destruction, will be used as material to achieve the goal of lifting the economic sanctions against Iraq as soon as possible." In the interview, he also showed his confidence in a report to be submitted in October by the special committee to the UN Security Council, saying, "The UN Security Council should honor the report from the special committee."

Explaining the data, the Iraqi foreign minister said: "The betrayer had hidden it. Scientists, who had collaborated with him in hiding it under threat from him, disclosed the existence of the data after his defection."

On the harsh criticism of Iraq by King Husayn of Jordan who granted asylum to Kamil, the Iraqi foreign minister said: "The Jordanian king criticized our nation on the basis of distorted information provided by the betrayer, and we do not care about his criticism. The betrayer will be found to be a big liar in due time. What is more important is to strengthen brotherly ties between Iraq and Jordan."

Claiming that Iraq is willing to build new relationships with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, the Iraqi foreign minister made clear that Iraq had invited anew Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati to visit Baghdad.

Baghdad Ready for 'New Relations' With Arab States

JN1009181895 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0915 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 10 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has described Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf's statement on Iraq's Arab relations as a responsible, positive reaction to what Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak have said about Iraq and the Iraq-related developments.

In its editorial today, AL-JUMHURIYAH said that Iraq, which has always been on the lookout for any positive gesture no matter how small in order to open its heart to its Arab brothers, has responded to the initiatives of the Syrian and the Egyptian presidents by reiterating its readiness to build new relations with all the Arab states without exception.

The paper said that each and every Arab country is being exposed to a plan of fragmentation or full colonization. The difference between the two conditions is only a function of time. Today, they are fighting Iraq, Algeria, Sudan, and Libya. Tomorrow they will fight Syria, Egypt, Jordan, and others by using either the methods they used against Iraq or by employing methods they used against Algeria; namely, setting off a devastating civil war.

AL-JUMHURIYAH said that the flexibility demonstrated by Arab countries that opted for peaceful solutions were confronted by Israel's intransigence and refusal to give back the occupied Arab territories. Israel either refused to withdraw or insisted on divesting the Arabs of their sovereignty on their territories, a problem which is no less dangerous than Iraq's problem with the United States.

The newspaper appealed to all the Arab governments to carefully read the U.S. statements and compare them with U.S. deeds because this will help understand a major fact; namely, that the United States intentionally creates, provokes, and perpetuates crises in order to remain in control for many reasons, the most important of which is bringing in new regimes, borders, and faces in all Arab countries in order to make cooperation with the Zionist entity free of "the complexes of the past." The paper said that the United States intends to fragment the Arab countries one after another. It prepares the climate of this fragmentation in advance even in countries that cooperate with it. This is because the U.S. concept of the Arabs portrays the Zionist entity as the dominant power in the region and turns the Arab countries into economic bases from which the United States controls the lifeline of modern societies; namely, oil.

AL-JUMHURIYAH said that the United States views us as pawns in its game to control the world. Our role must in no way exceed that of slaves. This makes necessary the destruction of all factors of independence and the means to defend sovereignty, and the fragmentation of the territorial unity of the Arab countries in order to transform them into protectorates that always need to be protected rather than sovereign nations.

The paper pointed out that Iraq's sincere call comes from the strong position of a country that faced a third world war single- handedly and confronted the worst siege in history and remained steadfast. Therefore, we are capable of continuing our jihad alone. However, we admit and recognize that our jihad will be less painful and costly if our Arab brothers helped us in the legitimate defense of the Arab existence. This will also protect the Arab countries that are on the destruction list, and foil U.S.-Zionist plans.

TV Reports Security Council Sanctions Review

JN0809193395 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Security Council conducted its 27th review of the embargo regime this evening. The Security Council reviews the embargo every 60 days.

Following the session, the Security Council president said no change to the embargo regime has been made. Diplomatic sources which took part in the Security Council's consultations said there has been no major change in the stands of the countries that are sympathetic with Iraq. However, these nations are still waiting for Ekeus's final report to push for the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. There is a delay in the final report because of the huge amount of new information which needs to be verified by the Special Commission.

The sources added that the envoys of Russia, France, China, Oman, Indonesia, and Nigeria spoke today about the need to ease the embargo on the Iraqi people.

'Some' Arab Countries' Stand on U.S. 'Plot' Praised

JN0809121195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 8 Sep (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has described the Arab popular and official stand in some Arab East and Maghreb countries, which exposed the U.S.-Zionist plot against Iraq and its aggressive objectives, as a positive Arab stand, which enjoys Iraq's appreciation. The paper adds that this stand should prevail in the Arab political arena.

In an article published today, AL-THAWRAH stresses that this Arab stand shows that the Zionist-U.S. lies fabricated against Iraq are no longer as effective as they used to be when they were used to peddle the military aggression, economic siege, and malicious attempts to undermine the independence of Iraq and its territorial integrity.

The newspaper adds: Inasmuch as this Arab stand calls for confidence, optimism, and respect for Arab political choices, it also represents a necessary bases for joint Arab action that cancels all existing exceptions and restores the strength of Arab polarization to serve Arab interests and maintain Arab resources and pan-Arab security.

The paper says: It has tangibly been proven that the new clamor raised against Iraq was premeditated and has well-known objectives. It is aimed at undermining the patience of the Iraqis and their steadfastness and hence, undermining the Iraqi will which has become an example for noble Arab aspirations.

U.S. 'Insistence' on Maintaining Sanctions Viewed

JN1009092295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0610 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 10 Sep (INA) — The newspaper AL-THAWRAH stresses that the obdurate U.S. position on the blockade imposed on Iraq is motivated only by political considerations.

The paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says in article published today that this U.S. position has nothing to do with Iraq's compliance or noncompliance with the UN Security Council resolutions, which were issued on behalf of the U.S. Administration and in the service of its interests and hostile policies.

The paper adds: This fact is proved by the U.S. insistence on maintaining the blockade without referring to the UN Security Council resolutions, especially Resolution 687, which calls for adopting reciprocal steps to ease the blockade imposed on Iraq whenever Iraq moves toward the implementation of the relevant resolutions.

The paper continues: This fact is further clarified by the pretext advanced by the United States to justify the continued blockade. This time the U.S. Administration used the additional information provided by Iraq to the UN Special Commission as a pretext. This information should have completely closed the biological and nuclear files, in addition to the missiles and chemical files that have already been closed.

The paper adds: In the past, the U.S. Administration justified the continued blockade against Iraq by citing an alleged need for further information. Now the U.S. Administration is protesting the information recently presented to the Special Commission because it does not want the Special Commission to write the last line in its final report and does not want the commission to declare that its assigned tasks are completed.

The paper adds: Completing the mission of the Special Commission will expose the U.S. position and leave Washington almost naked before the UN Security Council and the international community.

Concluding its article, the paper says that through these contemptible contradictions, the U.S. Administration is reversing facts and wants the UN Security Council to go insane and stand on its head. This would make the destructive force of U.S. falsehood and haughtiness more severe.

INA Confirms Ibrahim Message to Jordan's Prince Hasan

JN0909124295 Baghdad INA in English 1130 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, Sept 9, INA—Deputy chairman of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council 'Izzat Ibrahim has send a message to Crown Prince of Jordan Hasan Bin-Talal.

The letter has been handed over to the crown prince by the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Jordanian Energy Minister Arrives With Delegation

Calls Oil Cooperation 'Good'

JN0909194195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1855 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 9 Sep (INA)—Samih Darwazah, Jordanian minister of energy and mineral resources, has described cooperation between Iraq and Jordan in the field of oil as good and continuous, adding that both countries are studying joint projects with the aim of implementing them. In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, INA, the Jordanian minister said: Praise be to God, the flow of Iraqi oil to our country is continuous. Our establishments are used to this type of import and there is no need to change it.

Samih Darwazah reaffirmed that the Jordanian and Iraqi sides continue to study the economic advantage of the Iraqi-Jordanian oil pipeline project.

INA has learned that the Iraqi and Jordanian sides will begin talks tomorrow, Sunday, to reinforce cooperation between the two countries in the fields of oil and energy.

The Jordanian minister arrived in Baghdad today on a four-day visit.

Meets With Industry Minister

JN1009123095 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1055 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 10 Sep (INA) — 'Adnan 'Abd-al-Majid Jasim, minister of industry and minerals, met with Samih Darwazah, Jordanian minister of energy and mineral resources, today.

The minister of industry and minerals reviewed the ministry's industrial activities and projects. He stressed Iraq's eagerness to promote cooperation with sisterly Jordan in the service of joint development.

The Jordanian minister of energy and mineral resources reiterated Jordan's eagerness to expand existing cooperation and to create new opportunities in this direction.

The two officials reviewed the existing cooperation in the fields of electricity and other industrial areas, such as pharmaceutical industries, canning and packaging, and the engineering industries.

They stressed their eagerness to proceed with the implementation of the joint projects and promote cooperation programs.

The meeting was attended by two under secretaries of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals and the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad.

Discusses Ties With Oil, Trade Ministers

JN1009144095 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1140 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 10 Sep (INA)—Iraqi-Jordanian oil talks began in Baghdad today. They aim to expand cooperation in the fields of oil and energy. Oil Minister Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid expressed the hope that the talks would result in new steps to enhance cooperation and promote the oil industry to serve the common objectives of both sides.

Samih Darwazah, Jordanian minister of energy and mineral resources, said Iraqi-Jordanian oil relations are good and are characterized by joint understanding. He stressed the need to establish new joint oil projects that have a strategic nature and will expand the economic relationship between both sides.

The ministers discussed establishing joint strategic projects in the field of energy; construction of an oil pipeline between Iraq and Jordan; and expanding cooperation in the fields of exploration, well-digging, and exchange of technical expertise. The talks were attended by the Oil Ministry under secretary, the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad, and other officials.

In another development, Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih met with Darwazah and his delegation today. They reviewed ways to expand cooperation and trade exchanges in a way that will bolster development programs in both fraternal countries. The meeting was attended by the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad.

Comments on Iraqi Oil, Saudi Tapline

JN1009200095 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 10 Sep 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Minister of Energy and Mineral Wealth Samih Darwazah says Jordan will continue to buy Iraqi oil. Speaking during a visit to Baghdad, Darwazah said Jordanian-Iraqi ties are normal and he knew of no plans to shift to other suppliers. He said the purpose of his visit was to discuss the possibility of building a pipeline to carry Iraqi oil to Jordan. Darwazah said work on the proposed 600-km pipeline would begin as soon as the two countries completed relevant feasibility studies.

The minister added that plans for repairing the defunct tapline that used to carry 40,000 barrels of Saudi oil to Jordan daily were in progress.

Awqaf Minister Leaves for Islamic Meeting in Saudi Arabia

JN0909101095 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0746 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 9 Sep (INA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im Ahmad Salih, minister of awqaf and religious affairs, left Baghdad for Saudi Arabia today at the invitation of 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al Muhsin al-Turki, Saudi minister of Islamic affairs, endowment, call, and guidance. Dr. Salih will attend the meeting of the Executive Council of the Islamic states' ministers of awqaf, scheduled to be held in Jeddah on Tuesday [12 September].

Peres Interviewed on Talks With 'Arafat

TA0809201495 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Sep 95

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Yisra'el Segal in the studio — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Segal] You returned from Taba today, but without a signed Oslo B agreement. We will discuss that later, but first I would like to hear your reaction to the fact that a right-wing organization is claiming responsibility for the Halhul murder.

[Peres] It is a stain on all of Israel; it is a disastrous deed. They cause us no less damage than the terrorists on the other side. The state must do everything it can to capture the perpetrators, put them on trial, and prevent the recurrence of such actions.

[Segal] Do we know anything about that organization?

[Peres] We — at least I — know very little. The organization denied it, but anybody who murders can also issue denials, so you cannot depend on either the announcement or the denial.

[Segal] Are you afraid that this is what we can expect in the months ahead, until the agreement is completed: acts of vengeance on both sides? It is virtually becoming a tribal war.

[Peres] Kahana existed prior to the Oslo process, too. There were acts of violence before as well. Buses were shot at; there was the Rosenzweig murder. There are examples of violence all the time. There are violent, terrible people living among us.

[Segal] But is it not the government's responsibility? You should be the ones to uproot the evil.

[Peres] We try but, to my regret, there is still evil.

[Segal] You returned from Taba without an agreement, but I understand from you that agreement was reached on water and electricity.

[Peres] There were several difficult issues besides Hebron.

[Segal] Which we will discuss in detail later.

[Peres] Yes, we will go according to the agenda. The first of the difficult issues was water. Last night, the water issue was concluded in three main points. Judaea and Samaria residents currently use 30 million cubic meters of drinking water. I promised to help create another 30 million cubic meters of drinking water within five years — in other words, to double the quantity in five years, which is a great deal.

[Segal] So the pictures of the thirsty Hebron inhabitants shown on our newsreel had an effect.

[Peres] The newsreel had an effect because immediately afterward, water supplies to Hebron were increased, and it received an extra 2,000 cubic meters of water per day. It was an important addition to 760,000 cubic meters, dramatically changing the entire water situation in Judaea and Samaria. Second, it was agreed to set up a joint body to supervise water management in Judaea and Samaria. We also added some 5 million cubic meters for Gaza, where the situation is very difficult. In addition, we intend to create some 50 million cubic meters of water for irrigation, with international funding, of course.

[Segal] Let us move on to Hebron and then discuss electricity.

[Peres] Electricity and financial issues. I think that altogether we sat together for 15 hours.

[Segal] You ended the deliberations at 0330 this morning.

[Peres] Yes, but I think that it was generally a very productive meeting. We agreed on several issues which kept cropping up and taking up time: water, electricity, and finances. We started with Hebron.

[Segal] Before Hebron, let us look at a video recording of remarks made by the prime minister today about the outlook that guides government policy:

[Begin Rabin recording] The solution is separation. Believe me, blurring the spheres between Jews in the territories and Palestinians in Israel is a paradise for terrorism unknown anywhere else in the world. [end recording]

It sounds very nice, but what can be done in Hebron?

[Peres] We must find very original solutions for Hebron. As the prime minister said, things are intermingled. In fact, we want to turn the omelet back into eggs. It is very hard to separate; it is easier said than done.

[Segal] So how is it done?

[Peres] There are two basic outlooks on Hebron at this stage. What are the Palestinians saying? They are saying: You have Qiryat Arba'. There is a Jewish settlement in the city center, in the casbah: Bet Avraham, Bet Hadassah, the Cave of the Patriarchs, the roads leading there. Stay there, look after them. We do not want them evacuated or for you to make us responsible for their security. But there are some 140,000 people — they say — in Hebron, so let us run our affairs like you are permitting in other cities. The aim of the negotiations is to permit elections without an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] presence in the areas populated by the Palestinians. By the way, they claim that some 600,000 West Bank residents originated in Hebron, that they live in Ramallah, East Jerusalem, etc. We are not discussing evacuation. We want security responsibility for the entire town, including the non-Jewish sections.

[Segal] Why? What do we need it for?

[Peres] The answer is because access is very complex.

[Segal] Let us look at two slides. Here is Bet Hadassah, on which you say there is agreement.

[Peres] There is the problem of Bet Hadassah. To reach it from Bet Avraham Avihu, you have to cross the market. The question is how to cross the market without bumping into the people in the market. The market is to the left of Bet Avraham Avinu, and the storefronts face the road leading to Bet Avraham Avinu. To reach the Cave of the Patriarchs from there, again you must cross the town. Bet Hagay, where some of the residents who work in Qiryat Arba' live, is to the south. The road from Bet Hagay to Qiryat Arba' runs through Hebron. The main road from Jerusalem to Beersheba goes through Hebron. It used to be outside Hebron, but the town expanded, and now it is inside. That means that no matter which way you turn, you face the problem of safeguarding roads so that there will be no ambushes, no shooting from the rooftops. That is why it is so complex.

[Segal] In all the other settlements, the government found a way out: bypass roads. What will you do here: an air corridor?

[Peres] That is not possible.

[Segal] So how can it be resolved?

[Peres] We are struggling to figure that out. We solved many, very complex issues in Area B. The question is: To what extent can we divide responsibility for normal life between us and the Arab residents?

[Segal] Mr. Peres, why does the government not take a stand and evacuate the Jewish residents? Is it not also taking the elections into account, because such a move would arouse opposition? You have not evacuated Tall al-Rumaythah, which is an illegal settlement, either.

[Peres] There is a limit to logic. Logic requires a majority, and not all majorities are logical. We must constantly deal with the issue without bringing about a head-on collision.

[Segal] In all honesty, can you say that is not unavoidable in Hebron?

[Peres] In all honesty, it can definitely be avoided. Nothing is inevitable; there is no self-fulfilling prophecy. We are responsible people, and we are concerned with the following things: You need a parliamentary majority — it is not enough to air some good idea; you need a majority in the Knesset — and then you need security at the site. You also need to prevent provocations by both sides. In other words, the treatment is clinical. It is a very delicate operation. If you operate on somebody and stick the knife in a little too deep, the patient dies.

[Segal] Do you have a solution?

[Peres] Yes, I have a solution.

[Segal] Can you tell our audience?

[Peres] No, under no circumstances.

[Segal] Why? 'Arafat can hear it and we cannot?

[Peres] First, I have not presented it to 'Arafat yet. The moment I tell you, I will have lost the negotiations. Everything that is said publicly has been relayed to the other side. The logic of negotiations is that you keep the cards or positions to yourself, listen to the other side very attentively, and try to understand what troubles it. What they claim troubles the Palestinian side is that they cannot hold elections without Hebron. They say Hebron will not hold elections if the IDF remains there. They say: Okay, keep what you need and give us the rest.

[Segal] When do you think the agreement will be signed? Dates are not holy but neither are postponements.

[Peres] We do not work according to days but according to ideas and agreements. Late last night, we started to move very slightly; an opening was created. The road is still long and complex. I will tell you something else about negotiations, which we already know from experience: Generally, the final positions are kept for the end. No side rushes to make its positions known. The Palestinian side has a clear political logic. They want to show their people that they are fighting like lions and are not giving in easily. We, for our part, are trying to stick very closely to the security considerations as presented to us by our security people. We adhere to that very closely. In other words, there are two worlds on a collision course, and we must build bridges. It is not an easy task, but I believe we will manage to build the bridges.

Singer on 'Phenomenon' in Talks With Palestinians

TA0809174495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 8 Sep 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Ministry legal adviser Yo'el Singer by David Essing on 8 September; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Essing] Mr. Singer, how serious is this crisis, in your view, in the talks between Israel and the Palestinians?

[Singer] I do not think we have a crisis. I think we are witnessing a phenomenon that is very usual at the very last stage of the negotiations, where the two sides already see the end very close and they are trying to get the best deal that they can before the agreement is signed.

[Essing] We understand that control of security in Hebron is the major stumbling block. Is that true, sir?

[Singer] It appears as the number one item on the list of the Palestinian priorities.

[Essing] How would you define the differences between Israel and the Palestinians on Hebron?

[Singer] I would say that the Palestinian side would like to see complete Palestinian jurisdiction, specifically in the security sphere, over the city of Hebron, while the Israeli side says that because of the special circumstances prevailing in this place, Israel should retain the security authority over the city of Hebron while implementing a partial redeployment.

[Essing] Well, this would appear to be a very tough nut to crack. Is it, in fact, a zero sum gain? In other words, one side is going to have to capitulate altogether.

[Singer] Well, I cannot say whether one side or the other should capitulate. All I can say at this time is that the positions are far away, and both sides will have to reconsider their positions and see whether they want to conclude an agreement in a week or two.

[Essing] Well, Yasir 'Arafat has said that he will not sign Oslo B without an agreement on Hebron. Is there a danger, then, that these negotiations could drag on far longer than anyone expected?

[Singer] It is possible. At the end of the day, both sides will have to decide whether they want an agreement now. If not, there is nothing that could make the agreement materialize. If the answer is positive, I am sure that the two sides will try to be imaginative in trying to find compromise solutions that would allow the two sides to have the cake and eat it.

[Essing] Well, I understand that Israel did make some new proposals on Hebron in this round of talks. Do you think these proposals have edged the two sides closer to a compromise that you have spoken about?

[Singer] It appears that the compromise proposals that were put forward by the two sides were not sufficient, because we ended the week without agreement on Hebron, but we will see what will happen next week.

[Essing] The head of Central Command, General Ilan Biran, has also, we understand, expressed reservations about the entire security setup in Judaea and Samaria after the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment. Did this also find expression in this round of negotiations?

[Singer] The Israeli delegation presents the views that are approved by the Government of Israel, specifically by the prime minister. Foreign Minister Peres was with us, so we are presenting the official views to the other side. It is true that the other side finds these positions as too strict, while there are a few people on the Israeli side who find these positions too flexible. This is the way negotiations are all over the world. When you try to reach compromises, you will have people on both sides of the table that are not satisfied with the compromises, but I hope that we will be able to find the appropriate and balanced positions that will be in the agreement eventually.

[Essing] When you speak of appropriate and balanced positions, after the consultations with Prime Minister Rabin today, do you think that the Israeli side is going to have something new, something fresh, to offer the Palestinians?

[Singer] If you are talking about Hebron, I do not know what else we can do. I cannot tell you. You see, do not forget this is a very sensitive point in the negotiations. We are very, very close to the end. It appears that the agreement can be concluded sometime this month. Maybe next week, maybe the week after that. There are some gaps in some of the important issues. Naturally, the very important issues are left to the very last stage. I do not think that I should make any comment on our positions and what will be our positions next week. I am confident that if there is the will on both sides to conclude the agreement, the two sides will be able to find appropriate and balanced compromises.

[Essing] Aside from Hebron, there was some progress, I understand, with regards to water and to double the Palestinians consumption of fresh water. Were there any concrete proposals put forward as to how this is going to be done?

[Singer] Yes, very concrete with regard to very specific places from which portions of this surplus will come from. We have not yet concluded any agreed paper on it to be included in the agreement, but we are very close to it.

[Essing] So, in other words, the idea is doable; it is not just a matter of sweeping it under the rug to be dealt with at a later time.

[Singer] Yes, but do not forget there are two elements. The water rights: We decided to postpone the resolution of this issue to the permanent status negotiations. Water allocation is something that we are addressing at this time with the intention of doubling, as you have just now mentioned, the quotas of drinking water for the Palestinians of the West Bank.

[Essing] And electricity. That is still a nonstarter, I understand.

[Singer] I think that we have made substantial progress on the issue of electricity. We have not yet resolved it, and we will continue to work on it next week.

Ministers Told Hebron Remains 'Toughest Problem'

TA0809122595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A short meeting was held earlier today at the prime minister's bureau in Tel Aviv to hear a report about the negotiations in Taba between the Israeli team headed by Minister Peres and the Palestinian team led by 'Arafat. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 8 September notes that the participants in the meeting included Ministers Peres, Shahal, Sarid, and Baraq, as well as the Israeli army's top brass and the Foreign Ministry's top officials.]

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that at the end of the meeting it emerged once again that Hebron remains the toughest problem, although the feeling is that the entire negotiating process will not blow up because of it due to the fact that both sides want the negotiations to end successfully.

According to several assessments, the issue of Hebron may be finalized just before the signing ceremony in Washington. The date of the ceremony was not discussed in the meeting, because Israel does not want to appear eager to finish the negotiations, among other reasons.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 8 September adds: "The participants also heard a report about the understandings on the water issue and the options for settling the disagreement on the electricity issue. Minister Shahal proposed to separate the debate on ownership of the medium-voltage power lines from the commercial discussions about the price of the electricity Israel will supply to the Palestinians. Israel will not comply with 'Arafat's demand to submit this dispute to international arbitration so as not to set a precedent."]

Sarid Says 'Serious Crisis' Over Hebron

TA0809122795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking at a symposium held today in Herzliyya in memory of the late Pinhas Sapir, Minister Yosi Sarid said there is a serious crisis in the talks with the Palestinians on the issue of Hebron. He asserted that he supported a separation between Israel and the Palestinians in order to lay the basis for cooperation in the future.

Minister Ehud Baraq said he believes the closure prevents terrorist attacks, and in his opinion it is the Palestinians who are dependent on Israel.

Minister Yosi Beilin announced that he will present a proposal to the Labor Party to abolish the ban on the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Knesset Member Dan Meridor of the Likud said that the term separation is good as an election slogan, but that what it really means is total withdrawal. In his opinion, separation is a chimera and unrealistic unless all the Jews are pulled out of Judaea and Samaria. This is reported by our correspondent Yafa Glick.

Decision To Sign Accord in Cairo Said Retracted

TA1009112195 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 10 Sep 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev and Ben Kaspit]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel has reneged on its intention to hold the initialing ceremony for the interim agreement with the Palestinians in Cairo. The reason for this is the deterioration in bilateral relations against the backdrop of the POW affair. This has been stated by political sources in Jerusalem.

The sources added, however, that contacts will be held between the two countries this week in a bid to attain a "package deal" wherein Egypt will attempt to remove the POW affair from the agenda and Israel will agree to hold the initialing ceremony in Cairo. [passage omitted]

Criteria for Prisoner Release Set; Netanyahu on Talks

TA1109065395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel will release 300 Palestinian prisoners in two stages after the signing of the interim agreement, according to a decision made last night by the committee for the release of prisoners, headed by Police Minister Moshe Shahal. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky has the details:

[Begin Bushinsky recording] The committee on the release of prisoners made two new and significant decisions. The first is that Palestinian prisoners whose hands are tainted with blood will be released, and the second is that sentences will henceforth be commuted; in other words, prisoners who have not murdered will be released before the end of their sentence.

The committee sat through the night to review the personal files of terrorists according to the new criteria in order to determine who will be released and who will remain in prison. Those to be released include minors, women, prisoners who have been in jail for at least 10 years, and prisoners suffering from chronic illnesses, on condition that they are not known heavies.

Shahal said these criteria will apply to some 300 prisoners, including 120 minors, who will have to sign a statement that they support the peace process. Shahal stressed that the committee did not find hordes of prisoners who fit the new criteria — certainly not the number the Palestinian Authority would like to see. The Palestinians want to see their friends — including terrorists who perpetrated serious attacks — released, and this a demand Israel will not accept. At the same time, commuting one-third of their sentence may give hope to many prisoners, Minister Shahal said.

As for the Israeli side, which may also be displeased, the committee decided on a new blood meter, so to speak: Murderers will definitely not be released, while the category of terrorists whose hands are tainted with blood will apply only to those who injured Israelis slightly and who perpetrated their deed many years ago. [end recording]

Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said it is hard to understand the government's eagerness to continue transferring additional powers to the PLO and to release more prisoners while 'Arafat continues to incite against Israel. The government is rushing ahead and making fateful decisions without asking the people, Netanyahu said.

[Begin Netanyahu recording] Mr. Rabin did not receive a mandate to hand over territory or to establish a Palestinian state. He is using coercion to force such a decision on Israel's citizens. I, as prime minister, will not try to impose my views on such fateful issues. Should an issue arise that pertains to the future of the state and its borders or that determines our very existence here, and if said issue was not discussed in the election campaign and I did not receive a clear mandate to act on it, I hereby commit myself to go back to the people and seek its opinion.

The government I will lead will do the opposite: Instead of a Syrian arc stretching from Nahariyya to Bet She'an, which will undermine our national and personal security, we will make sure that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is on the Golan and that the IDF and its partners are in south Lebanon, because this is the only way to safeguard the security of Shelomi, Nahariyya, Qiryat Shemona, the entire Galilee, and the entire Israeli people. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0500 GMT on 11 September adds that the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza "said in response to the announcement on the release of prisoners that this government does not respect its citizens and the rule of law. The council said the government must not, therefore, be surprised if sections of the nation do not respect it."]

Liba'i: No Prisoner Release If PA Holds 'Terrorists'

TA1009123495 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Sep 95 p 2

[ITIM report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel may stop releasing Palestinians imprisoned for terrorist activities if the Palestinian Authority [PA] keeps refusing to extradite terrorists who have taken refuge in the Gaza Strip, Justice Minister David Liba'i said Friday [8 September].

The ministerial committee on prisoner releases meets today in Ramla to discuss the list of candidates for release and the lists provided by the PA.

Speaking on Channel 1's Arabic television, Liba'i said that until now the government has refrained from using ultimatums in its relations with the PA. However, he said, Israel is concerned that the PA, despite receiving repeated requests, has not turned over even one wanted terrorist.

The minister said Israel is perturbed by the fact that terrorists commit grave crimes and then go free without having justice served against them.

"If the Palestinian Authority continues to refuse to give us wanted terrorists who will have freedom to murder and flee without paying for their crimes, we will carefully consider the implications of refusing extradition requests," Liba'i said.

If the PA's stand is to refuse Israel's requests outright, Liba'i said, this position could also influence Israel's stance on the PA's demands for prisoner releases.

"We will not add more people with experience in terrorism to those who are released," he said.

Palestinian Prisoners Kill Hamas Inmate in Prison

NC1009132995 Paris AFP in English 1311 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tel Ashqelon, Israel, Sept 10 (AFP) - A Hamas militant was Sunday [10 September] battered to death by other Palestinian prisoners in his cell in an Israeli jail, police said.

'Abd-al-Fatah al-Rantisi, 32, was found dead in his cell by guards at Tel Ashqelon prison in southern Israel, police spokesman Eric Bar Chen said.

Al-Rantisi, a member of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), which opposes peace with Israel, was originally from the al-Shati' refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. He was serving a 15-year sentence for murdering a collaborator.

According to Bar Chen, "a prisoner told guards that al-Rantisi wasn't feeling well. When they arrived, he was already dead. The body had numerous contusions indicating that he had been beaten.

"According to initial indications, he was hit by other prisoners. There were 20 of them in the same cell," Bar Chen said. "We don't know who is responsible. An investigation has been opened."

IDF-PA Cooperation, Peace Talks 'Weakening' Hamas

TA0809130795 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Alon Pinkas]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Palestinian Authority [PA] are cooperating in efforts to capture Yahya 'Ayyash, the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorist known as the "Engineer" who is believed to be behind the construction of bombs used in the wave of suicide attacks, a very senior officer in the Southern Command said yesterday.

"The level of cooperation between us and the Palestinian security forces is consistent and good. However, our intelligence penetration capabilities in the Gaza Strip have obviously been decreased once we left the area," the officer said.

'Ayyash is believed to be hiding in the Gaza Strip, although there have been reports that he fled to Sudan or Libya several months ago.

Hamas' political power base in Gaza is shrinking, meanwhile, and Israeli assessments are that its pull has diminished significantly with the progress in the peace talks.

"We sense a real weakening in Hamas' stature in the Gaza Strip. Compared to the period which preceded the implementation of self- rule, Hamas has considerably less political power," the officer told reporters visiting the Gaza Strip yesterday.

He added that the Palestinian Authority has realized the political process is being hampered by Hamas' activities and that unless the organization is countered, the process will be impeded periodically and indefinitely.

"The (Palestinian) population supports preventative actions by the PA against Hamas terrorist activities and understands that it is ultimately done for their benefit," he said.

The officer said the army has recently introduced new technologies to better monitor entry by Palestinian laborers into Israel. A new and sophisticated computer system was installed that is capable of detecting forged documents. The IDF is currently evaluating another system that would allow entry only by finger-print identification.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 8 September publishes on page 2 a related report by the army affairs correspondent, which adds: "The senior officer noted that the PA has been increasing its control over the mosques and charity societies, a Hamas bastion which the organization had used in the past for terrorist activity and to increase its grip on the population, mainly the needy.

["The officer disclosed that the PA has been handing over to Israel weapons found in its territory, including explosive charges and mines. It was only 10 days ago that the Palestinians handed over to Israel 100 mines, rocket-propelled grenade shells, and mortar shells."

["The officer noted the economic improvement in the Gaza Strip, particularly in the construction business. Some 15,000 to 20,000 are employed in construction in the Gaza Strip, and there are plans to build industrial plants near the boundary with Israel. 'What interests them today is making a living and the release of the prisoners and detainees,' the officer concluded."]

Two Orient House Guards 'Detained' by Police

*NC1009103195 Paris AFP in English
1017 GMT 10 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Sept 10 (AFP) - Israeli police on Sunday [10 September] detained two guards from the PLO's headquarters in annexed east Jerusalem, saying they were not permitted to travel to the holy city, a spokesman for Orient House said.

Jamil Jawabrah, 22, and Jamal Khlayl, 24, were heading for Orient House when they were stopped, spokesman Fahim al-Kilani said.

Police said as West Bank residents they were not authorized to go to Jerusalem. They would be released at the latest on Monday and taken back to the West Bank.

Trouble flared late Saturday between Palestinians and Jewish settlers who broke into a school opposite the Orient House, al- Kilani added. Israeli police briefly detained the settlers and then freed them.

Settlers and right wing Israeli extremists have been camped outside Orient House for several weeks to pressure the government to close Palestinian institutions in Arab east Jerusalem, captured and annexed by Israel in 1967.

Pupils from three schools in the same road have held daily protests against the presence of the settlers.

Country Said in 'No Rush' To Resume Syria Negotiations

*TA1009113195 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
10 Sep 95 p 5*

[Report by Washington-based correspondent Avino'am Bar-Yosef and Shefi Gabay]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel is in no rush to resume the negotiations with Syria and has informed the United States that it will not resume the ambassadors negotiations as long as Damascus does not guarantee to send the officers delegation for detailed discussions on security arrangements, or to upgrade the talks to the level of Prime Minister Rabin and President al-Asad, or Foreign Minister Peres and his counterpart al-Shar'.

This was said by Israeli sources in Washington against the backdrop of reports regarding the resumption of the peace talks with Syria. The sources emphasized that Syria's version, according to which the issue of an Israeli presence at ground stations on the Golan was eliminated during the chiefs of staff talks, is erroneous. They also said that during the Shahaq-al-Shihabi talks an agreement was reached concerning early warning provided from air and space, a thing that would have enabled the officers to conduct detailed and businesslike discussions.

Balloons Said 'Unreliable' for Golan Early Warning

*TA0809115695 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
8 Sep 95 p A4*

[Report by Aluf Ben and 'Aqiva Eldar]

[FBIS Translated Text] Reserves officers who held senior positions in the Intelligence Corps and Air Force say that Israel will not be able to rely on tethered balloons for early warning on the Golan Heights. According to them, this is an unreliable method which will restrict the Air Force's ability to fly over the area.

Syria sent messages to Israel saying that it would agree to position early warning and observation balloons on the Golan. Damascus categorically rejected the demand to operate a ground early warning station after the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from the area and proposes to establish an aerial early warning system to monitor the security arrangements in times of peace. According to the Syrians, the balloons, unlike aircraft, would supply early warning to Israel on a regular basis.

Tethered balloons float at an altitude of several kilometers and contain electronic sensors which relay data to a ground control station. According to the senior officers, the Intelligence Corps has been using early warning balloons since 1968 and has acquired a great deal of experience in the field. Such balloons were used in the Sinai and later, after the peace process with Egypt, from bases in the Negev. They were never used on the Golan, however, for fear that the balloons and the tethers holding them to the ground might endanger aircraft flying nearby. Consequently, flights are banned within a radius of 20 km from such balloons. The Air Force wanted to maintain its ability to fly in the area and vetoed the deployment of balloons in the north.

Weather conditions are another serious problem. Balloons cannot be launched when there is a strong wind blowing for fear that the tether might snap and the balloon might lose all the equipment installed on it. According to the officers, it will be impossible to use balloons over the Golan because of the winds and, therefore, they will not be able to supply the required early warning. "There is no substitute for the permanent early warning station on the Golan," they said.

Israel has no intention of "courting" al-Asad and insists that Syria abide by the agreement to hold a meeting of military experts without any preconditions, a senior source in Washington said yesterday. He added that Israel will not object if the Syrians propose to hold a meeting now between President Hafiz al-Asad and

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin or between the foreign ministers. According to the source, al-Asad is prepared to make peace with Israel, but there are no indications that he wants this very much. Israel wants peace, but is not eager to attain it at all costs, the source stressed.

The source rejected the Syrian version whereby the idea of early warning ground stations has been struck off the agenda. He stressed that Chief of Staff Shahaq and his Syrian counterpart al-Shihabi had agreed "in the clearest way" that in view of the military level's failure to reach an agreement, the issue would be submitted to the political level for a decision.

The source noted that the agreement in principle with Syria about early warning to be provided from the air and space still requires a lot of work on the details and specifics.

Caller Claims Responsibility for Halhul Murder

TA0809130395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An initial debriefing conducted by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has established that no army unit was engaged in an initiated operation in the Halhul area at the time that an Arab youngster was shot dead by unidentified men clad in IDF uniforms. The security forces have launched an investigation.

Our correspondent Ron Nesi'el reports that the extreme right-wing group EYAL [Irgun Yehudi Lohem] assumed responsibility for the incident in a statement released to journalists.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reported that five men broke into several houses in Halhul last night, searched them, and pulled out the owner of one of them. The man's son came to his rescue and was shot dead.

Second Group Makes Claim

TA1009063395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A right-wing Jewish extremist group calling itself the Sword of David has claimed responsibility for the murder of Halhul resident Sulayman al-Zamra. Al-Zamra was killed over the weekend by several assailants who, family members say, were wearing Israel army uniforms.

Someone calling himself a Sword of David member phoned Israel radio and said the murder was to avenge the stabbing attack on the settlement of Ma'ale Mikhmash last week. In that terrorist attack, Daniyel Frei was killed and his pregnant wife Mara was seriously wounded. The caller said that the group had advanced its planned attacks in the wake of the explosion in Lyon, France.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 10 September publishes on page 7 a report on an interview with Avishay Raviv, head of the right-wing extremist group Eyal, in which he says: "I heard about the Halhul incident on the radio, but I cannot be held responsible for every message callers deliver." "We have checked this out with most of our activists, and they all deny involvement." Raviv adds: "This is a very grave act, and I do not sympathize with it."]

Message From Iraq Said To Urge Strong Ties

JN0909075995 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Sep 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter with agency reports]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman—Iraq has sent a message to Jordan saying Baghdad wants to maintain good relations with Amman despite the recent defection to the Kingdom of a high-ranking Iraqi official, a Jordanian official was quoted as saying on Friday [9 September].

Agence France Presse quoted the unidentified official as saying that the message, from 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice-chairman of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) in Iraq, was delivered to His Royal Highnes Crown Prince Hasan, the Regent, on Thursday by an envoy.

The uneasiness in Jordanian-Iraqi relations following the Aug. 8 defection to Jordan of Lieutenant-General Husayn Kamil, former minister of industry, is "only technical and will pass," Mr. Ibrahim said in the message, according to the official.

"Baghdad wants to maintain its historical and deep relations with Amman," the message reportedly said. "Iraqi leaders realise the importance of King Husayn in the Arab world."

The deputy head of the RCC, which is chaired by President Saddam Husayn, also noted that ties between the two countries were set up by King Husayn and President Saddam, AFP said. [passage omitted]

Official Views Change of Policy on Iraq

NC0809211795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1955 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Sep (MENA)—Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur, chairman of the foreign relations committee in the Jordanian House of Representatives, has stressed that Jordan will not allow former Iraqi Industry Minister General Husayn Kamil or anyone else to work toward toppling the regime in Iraq through Jordan, noting that what Husayn Kamil said at his news conference after defecting to Jordan does not express Jordan's stance. In a statement to the newspaper AL-AHRAM published on 9 September, he pointed out that it is not in the interest of Jordan, which is smaller than all its neighbors, to pursue such a policy. He said that anyone who allows himself to play with fire in his neighbor's house must be prepared to play with fire inside his own home, which is not in Jordan's interest.

Dr. al-Nusur stressed that important relations link Jordan with fraternal Iraq. He said it is not in Jordan's interest to close the border with Iraq, halt exports to it, or take risks regarding the oil coming from Iraq, even if there are alternatives, because experience has shown that these alternatives are not stable. Proof of this, he said, is that these alternatives were cut by a particular party some time ago.

Dr. al-Nusur stressed that diplomatic channels between Jordan and Iraq remain open and that through these channels and visits by ministers and parliamentarians each country can understand the other. He noted that Jordan understands the harm and annoyance that the Iraqi leadership felt as a result of the defection of these Iraqi personalities to Jordan.

Asked whether Jordan has changed its policy on Iraq, Dr. al-Nusur said a change has occurred but the question is what dictated this change and what this change is. He said: "I believe the Jordanian leadership has realized that there is no hope of lifting the embargo imposed on Iraq, no matter what its response to the sanctions committee." He added that the embargo imposed on Iraq is political, not for scientific or technological reasons. He said it will destroy the Iraqi people. So Jordan had to be frank with its people that this is the situation. We must not give [false] hope to the Jordanian people, who deeply sympathize with the Iraqi people. He said: The embargo will not be lifted and we are not responsible for this. We were the most vociferous of advocates for lifting the embargo. He said that now everyone, primarily Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, must know that the embargo will not be lifted. He stressed that the great Iraqi people, who can only be matched by the Egyptian people, must not lag behind in freedom, democracy, human rights, referendum issues, the right to obtain information and to fair trials, and other values that are basic to the civilization of Man and nations.

Opposition Parties Criticize Policy on Iraq

JN0809190695 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1825 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 8 Sep (INA)—The Jordanian national opposition parties have said that the Iraqi people, who are unjustly and aggressively besieged, are the decisionmakers regarding all that concerns self-determination and all that may undermine Iraq's sovereignty and national unity.

This came in a press statement by a media spokesman for the 11 Jordanian national opposition parties today, Friday, in reply to a statement made by Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al- Kabariti regarding the Jordanian position on Iraq. News agencies cited al-Kabariti as saying that Jordan has the right to protect its interests and security in view of the events in Iraq.

The media spokesman said that al-Kabariti's statement inferred dimensions of a policy which fully conflicts with the Jordanian constants and convictions. These constants have always committed Jordan to noninterference in the internal affairs of the Arab states.

The spokesman added: As far as we know, there is no threat posed to the Jordanian interests by sisterly Iraq. The major threat to our interests and security is posed by the Zionist enemy, he said.

Source Denies Reports of New Iraqi Defections

JN1109110095 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 11 Sep 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] A Jordanian Government source denied press rumors about the defection of more Iraqi military personnel to Jordan over the past three days.

The source said that Jordanian authorities reject applications for political asylum from Iraqis living in Amman.

The government source said that the Jordanian military units along the border with Iraq see armed Iraqi military personnel seeking asylum all of the time, but the instructions were given to return these men to the Iraqi side immediately.

Article Claims Regime in Anti-Iraq U.S. 'Scheme'

JN0809165095 Amman AL-AHALI in Arabic 7 Sep 95 p 4

[Article by Layth Shubaylat, chief of the Jordanian Engineers Association]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Developments are breaking at a remarkably fast pace. Every day, something happens, further revealing the official policy to do all it can to formulate a new identity for Jordan and the Jordanians. This identity has nothing to do with Arab and Islamic principles, on which we bring up our generations. The new Jordanian face which the leadership dreams about is one that is rushing headlong toward the alleged peace with the Zionists. In addition, the new Jordanian face requires lifting the economic boycott imposed on the Zionists and warmly embracing them in accordance with a treaty of surrender, alliance, and friendship, rather than a peace treaty. This new Jordanian identity gives the benefit of the doubt to any Jew or Zionist, but hastens to level accusations at any Arab.

The authority wants this "modern" Jordanian to "condemn" and "denounce" and "hate" Iraq because it "maliciously" sought to build a system of weapons of mass destruction and to "deplore" Iraq's noncompliance with the "innocent and humanitarian" Security Council resolutions. At the same time, this authority wants the "modern" Jordanian to forgive the "Israeli cousins" because some of their "innocent, blessed, and fraternal" nuclear radiation leaked into Jordan. The political authority wants Jordanians to change their morals and become treacherous people and receive those who reveal the secrets of the military-industrial machine, which Iraq built for its nation from its own wealth. Iraq put its wealth at the disposal of its nation, and did not squander it. Those who have prolonged the blockade on their people are now shedding tears, along with the Arab regimes, over the future of the Iraqi people. All those people are the tools of aggression against Iraq in the fiercest economic blockade. This blockade is, in reality, an Arab blockade. Had it not been for the Arab blockade, the international blockade would not have had any significance.

The authority wants Jordanians to open their hearts to someone whom it issued a certificate that he is not an agent, at a time when this authority allowed all Western intelligence services, Western- dominated Arab intelligence agencies, the Mosad, and an international inspection criminal to meet this "free" Arab. Our political authority saw in this individual "chivalry and gallantry." It forgot that he played a major role in oppression. The Iraqis tell many stories about the summary executions in which this individual was the judge and the executioner. The authority wants Jordanians to forget how the Jordanian political authority and the Gulf regimes pushed Iraq toward war with those whom our media once branded as the "Magus Persians." We still call them Muslim brothers. By some miracle, our media today call them the brother Iranian Muslims. Our official media used to talk about occupied Arabstan [Khuzestan Province] and about the heroism of the Iraqi leadership for regaining it. Today, our media speak about the Algiers Agreement and the al-Thaluj line which is not "honored" by the Iraqi leadership.

The political authority wants to convince us that it was surprised by human rights issues in Iraq and that Husayn Kamil, "the dove of peace and security and the one who champions the oppressed" is the one who opened our eyes to these issues. [passage omitted]

Apparently, Jordan has been chosen to be a base to change the Iraqi regime under the cover of shedding tears over the Iraqi people. This is in spite of the fact that Iraq has been blackmailed by gangs of influential Jordanian personalities, who took advantage of the embargo, with the cooperation of some Iraqi personalities. The Iraqi renegade who sought political asylum in Jordan could very well be one of them. The unjust UN resolutions have benefited some influential criminal warlords from Iraq and Jordan and at the highest levels.

The Jordanian Government is involved, head over heels, in a U.S. scheme to topple the Iraqi regime. The Jordanian Government has for some time now been preparing the chivalrous Jordanian people for a change in its positions. Therefore, it hastened to mend the situation, just on the surface, when the public deplored the official embracement of Husayn Kamil. Then, it once again returned to its feverish campaign when Pelletreau reassured it, on his way back, that he had "secured" Gulf support for Jordan if it changes its stand toward Iraq. Pelletreau made a tour of the region which he began in Amman and then traveled to "Israel" and the Gulf. Thus, we heard the royal speech the next day. [passage omitted]

Every honest Arab and pious Muslim must today support the Iraqi regime (despite any domestic drawbacks) in the face of foreign plots. Priority should not be given to human rights, although they are of extreme importance, but to Iraq's sovereignty and to rescuing its land, people, and resources from the Israeli-American enslavement. [passage omitted]

Jordan's official policy is to harm relations with Iraq to cozy up to the American and Zionist "masters". The brothers in Iraq can do nothing but exercise more patience over this new calamity. As for the alleged Arab reconciliation, it only includes the Arab countries which bowed to Israel and America. Iraq, in its present situation, is not welcome in this club of "chivalry and gallantry" until its regime is changed. What is falsely called Arab reconciliation is meant to isolate and stifle Iraq until its future hoped-for "democracy" bows and it hands over its sovereignty and resources to the Zionist and American enemies. [passage omitted]

Members of the professional associations in particular, and the Jordanian public in general, are required to raise their voices and repeat what they say in their private conversations and sessions. This is because the government knows that as long as the opposition continues to whisper words, then the field is open for it alone to make the necessary changes by reversing the nation's constant principles, beliefs, and cultural identity. The government will also change its public policies in keeping with its secret policies, which are submissive to the Israeli-American idol. Everyone who keeps the truth to himself is a silent devil.

Iraqi Oil Pipeline Project Reportedly 'Frozen'

JN0909102895 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Sep 95 p 27

[Report by Khalid al-Zubaydi]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-RA'Y has learned that the Iraqi-Jordanian oil pipeline project that was proposed earlier this year has been frozen. The half-billion U.S. dollar project was due to be financed by local and world private sectors. Jordan and Iraq were supposed to provide necessary funds each according to its quota in the project.

Instructions were issued suspending both the technical and economic feasibility studies and the activities of the ministerial committee formed by the Council of Ministers. The committee included representatives from the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Planning, and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources.

Financing that part of the pipeline which extends through the Iraqi territory emerged as a major problem. Another major problem was the recent political developments, which aroused fears of a possible stoppage of Iraqi oil supplies and Jordan's possible reliance on Gulf oil as a substitute source.

The pipeline's capacity was estimated at 250,000 barrels per day. The pipeline was expected to save large amounts of money, representing the cost of transporting oil via tanker trucks, which is estimated at 30 million dinars annually. It would also reduce wear and tear on the infrastructure as a result of using hundreds of Jordanian-Iraqi tanker trucks.

Jordan imports some 70,000 barrels of Iraqi oil per day within the framework of a commodity-exchange contract and a payoff of Iraqi debts due to Jordan, which stand at about $1.1 billion.

'Government Source' Cited on Saudi Oil Imports

JN1009091095 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 10 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Nabil al-Ghishan]

[FBIS Translated Text] A high-ranking government source told AL-ASWAQ that the maintenance being done on Tapline, the Saudi pipeline to Jordan, is not routine. The source, who asked not to be identified, added: "Jordan needs to buy extra quantities of crude oil, in addition to Iraqi oil, in order to provide the Palestinian Authority with oil during the upcoming stage."

The source dismissed rumors that the government intends to stop Iraqi oil imports, citing two reasons: the low prices of Iraqi crude oil and the fact that Iraqi oil supplies are payment of Iraqi debts due to Jordan.

Informed sources also said that stringent inspections are being done on both sides of the Iraqi-Jordanian borders.

Al-Kabariti To Meet Kuwaiti Counterpart in Cairo

JN1009094495 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 10 Sep 95 pp 1, 17

[Report by Mamduh al-Hawamidah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said he will meet with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah in Cairo on 21 September.

Al-Kabariti indicated the importance of this meeting, which will be held on the sidelines of the Arab League Council meetings. In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, the minister said he and Shaykh al-Sabah will discuss bilateral relations and ways to develop them, as well as the possibility of restoring diplomatic ties at the ambassadorial level. Al-Kabariti expects the meeting to result in a plan of action to develop Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations.

Al-Kabariti will leave for Cairo on 20 September to participate in the Arab League Council meetings, scheduled to begin on 21 September. He said the Council will discuss an Arab code of honor, to which Jordan has contributed significantly.

Al-Kabariti is also expected to meet with a number of Arab foreign ministers in Cairo and exchange viewpoints on a number of Arab issues and bilateral relations.

Peace With Israel Tied to Palestinian Accord

TA1109093195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Without an Israeli-Palestinian agreement in the next few years on final status issues, such as Jerusalem and refugees, the peace with Jordan will not be "durable," Jordanian Ambassador Marwan al-Mu'ashshir said yesterday.

Speaking at a seminar in Amman sponsored by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, al-Mu'ashshir stressed that he is working energetically to advance Jordanian-Israeli relations on the assumption that Israel and the Palestinians will reach an agreement that will satisfy the aspirations of both sides.

Al-Mu'ashshir said he was not putting forward a formal linkage, but implicit in his remarks is that while the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan would not be abrogated, relations would deteriorate considerably. American Jewish philanthropists who were present, and wanted to hold the conference in Amman as a sign of friendship between Jordan and Israel, privately expressed great dismay over al-Mu'ashshir's remarks.

Speaking to reporters after the seminar, al-Mu'ashshir said that Jordan had taken what it sees as the first step in reclaiming Arab property lost at the time of the 1948 war.

The ambassador said he wrote to Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan asking, in effect, that Israel no longer retain the custodianship of property of Arab citizens of Jordan. Under current law, the state retains custodianship of all property abandoned by Arab landholders since 1947.

Al-Mu'ashshir said that Jordan has absolutely no idea how much property is involved and therefore he could not attach a sum, but that he believed that it was a significant amount of money.

"We now have a peace treaty with Israel, in which we said there would be no discrimination on either side. Isn't now the time to examine the value of the old property going back to 1947?" al- Mu'ashshir said.

He said he had not yet received a reply from the Foreign Ministry, and admitted that this is not an issue that would be resolved any time soon, but said that "we have to start now."

Foreign Minister on Citizens' Property in Israel

JN0909163995 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 9 Sep 95 pp 1, 17

[Report by Nabil al-Ghishan]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said that the Jordanian Government was officially informed about the new Israeli law excluding Jordanian citizens from the Absentees' Property Law [APL] as of 10 November 1994, the date of exchanging the ratification instruments of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

The articles of the Israeli law No. 5755 of 1995, a copy of which was made available to AL-ASWAQ, stipulate that excluding Jordanian citizens from the APL after 10 November 1994 will not affect the status of the property of Jordanians prior to this date. This means that the APL is still effective with respect to these properties prior to 10 November 1994 [sentence as published]. The signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace agreement made it easier for Jordanians to travel to Israel at anytime to claim their property that is subject to the APL. [passage omitted]

Libyan Decision To Expel Palestinians Assailed

JN1009202695 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Sep 95 pp 32, 28

["The Last Station" column by Salih al-Qallab: "Why This Dubious Silence!?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is strange that the mass transfer of Palestinians from the Libyan Jamahiriyah should be met with such an Arab silence. It is equally strange that the national forces and the Islamic progressive parties in our country, which used to issue statements of "solidarity" even with the people of Haiti and the Comoros, did not raise their voices to condemn these practices which conflict with the logic of contemporary age.

Libya wants to oppose "capitulatory" solutions and to support the Palestinian cause by throwing the Palestinians into the sea, while the parties and forces that claim to be the guardians of the nation's past, present and future, are lurking in a dubious silence. Most probably, some of these parties and forces are in favor of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's viewpoint as announced on the 1 September revolution anniversary.

The Libyan Jamahiriyah is deporting the Palestinians collectively in the name of Arabism and the Green Book; it wants to embarrass those who have concluded peaceful solutions. Likewise, Lebanon is closing its doors in the face of Palestinians although they are carrying Lebanese documents on the pretext of maintaining its communal and religious balance.

This is truly a strange logic. If 'Arafat fights as he did during the Beirut siege, the Palestinians will be killed and come under greater pressure by the "revolutionary" states. If he bargains, the Palestinians will also be killed in these states on the pretext of combating submissive solutions and supporting the Palestinian cause. If 'Arafat neither fights nor bargains, the Palestinians will still be killed and displaced for the same reasons and under the same pretexts.

Those who were extremely "revolutionary" claimed credit for all dissidence within the PLO because this organization, in their opinion, was not revolutionary enough. These revolutionaries say the PLO and its leadership are not the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Then they pour their anger on the Palestinians claiming that by doing so, they are getting even with Yasir 'Arafat and his "clique" and organization.

Where are the national and progressive parties? Do they approve of the tragedy of the Palestinians in Libya and Lebanon? Where are the Palestinian opposition factions and their leaders who claim to be the conscience of the Palestinian people? Do they approve of what the Palestinians are undergoing in states which they consider to be a pan-Arab haven and an Arab stronghold of steadfastness against Zionism and U.S. imperialism?

Some Palestinians are facing a real tragedy in the name of love for Palestine and the abolition of capitulatory solutions. All the pan-Arab, national, leftist, and Islamic parties should raise their voices against this tragedy. Throwing the Palestinians into the sea should stop. Treating Palestinians in such a manner will push them to the verge of despair. It will also push their negotiators, who are currently engaged in a truly tough battle, toward relinquishing all that they believe in and consider to be basic constants which cannot be ceded.

Measures Adopted To Prevent Entry of Palestinians

NC1009082895 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Lebanese security authorities have initiated stringent security measures at the airport, land border posts, and sea ports to prevent the entry of Palestinians to Lebanon if they have no entry visas or Lebanese travel documents.

Buwayz: Palestinians' Return 'Temporarily' Halted

NC0909144695 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz declared today that Lebanon cannot receive the large number of Palestinians that Libya has expelled for economic reasons and with nationalist motives.

Buwayz added: In view of the current confusion and questions about the validity of the travel documents given to the Palestinians in past years, an appropriate decision has been made to temporarily suspend the return of the Palestinians pending a radical solution to the whole affair.

Libya To Return Only Those With 'Correct' Papers

NC0909105395 Paris AFP in English 0950 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Sept 9 (AFP) - Libya has agreed to send back only Palestinians with Lebanese travel documents, Libyan ambassador Ashur Fortas said here Saturday [9 September], after Beirut ordered the closure of sea routes between the two countries.

He told reporters that the Libyan company in charge of transporting the expelled Palestinians had been "ordered to take on board for Lebanon only those who have the correct papers, such as Lebanese travel documents."

"We will respect Lebanese laws and will only allow Palestinians holding Lebanese travel documents to board for Lebanon," he pledged.

Interior Minister Michel el-Murr on Friday ordered the closure of sea routes with Libya, saying it was "a pre-emptive measure" after reports that hundreds of Palestinians were headed for Beirut.

Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi has decided to expel Palestinians whose work contracts in the North African country have run out.

Palestinian sources said as many as 30,000 people could be affected, of whom 15,000 hold either Lebanese or Syrian travel documents.

Under accords struck between the UN agency for Palestinian refugees UNRWA and Arab host countries, those states which have given Palestinians travel documents are obliged to receive them.

Fortas said some Palestinians had returned to Lebanon individually, while 240 whose papers were not in order arrived in Beirut on August 25 on board the ship Garnata. They were turned back on Wednesday.

Lebanon is home to 300,000 Palestinian refugees.

Minister Announces Halt to Sea Voyages to Libya

NC0809172395 London MBC Television in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lebanese Interior Minister Michel al-Murr has announced a halt to sea trips to Libya to prevent the Palestinians deported by the Libyan authorities from entering Lebanon.

An official source in Beirut said Lebanon cannot tolerate the entry of large numbers of Palestinians, especially since over 400,000 Palestinians have been living in Lebanon for a long time now.

Lebanese political factions and Palestinian leaders reject the principle of settling Palestinians in Lebanon.

Views Return of Palestinians

NC0809181095 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Regarding the Palestinians who returned to Lebanon from Libya, Interior Minister Michel al-Murr has stated that no more than 350 Palestinians have come back to Lebanon from Libya. He said:

[Begin al-Murr recording] The Lebanese authorities are implementing valid laws on the Palestinians living in Lebanon. The Palestinians who entered Lebanon in 1948 are entitled to travel documents just as Lebanese citizens are entitled to Lebanese passports. Palestinians who have Lebanese travel documents can enter Lebanon. In the past three weeks the competent Lebanese authorities—Public Security and others—checked the travel documents of Palestinians arriving aboard ships from Libya. The Palestinians who did not have Lebanese travel documents were turned back. Palestinians with travel documents were allowed to enter according to the laws applicable to the Palestinians in Lebanon in agreement with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency and the Directorate of Refugees Affairs. The figures for returning Palestinians reported in some media and newspapers are exaggerated. I may not be precise regarding the number of Palestinians who have entered Lebanon, but it is roughly 350. The prime minister and I discussed the issue yesterday and we agreed to take preventive measures to ensure that there is no influx of Palestinians to Lebanon because Libya has decided to deport several thousand Palestinians. We are forced to turn back those Palestinians who have no Lebanese travel documents. So far 350 Palestinians have entered Lebanon. The number may reach 1,000, 2,000 or 3,000 within a week or two. As interior minister I sent a message to the transport minister asking the Lebanese authorities to monitor the maritime route between Libya and Lebanon as a temporary preventive measure until the Cabinet meets and decides what to do with the Palestinians who have Lebanese travel documents and who came to Lebanon in 1948. The laws and regulations allow these Palestinians to obtain travel documents. Before the Cabinet meeting I contacted the prime minister and I made a decision on my own responsibility and sent a message to the transport minister to halt the maritime traffic transporting Palestinians from Libya until the Cabinet meets and makes the appropriate decision. We will then implement these decisions. [end recording]

Says Entry Visas Needed

NC0909175895 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The issue of Palestinians arriving in Lebanon [from Libya] has a temporary solution, the foreign minister said, pending a radical solution by the Council of Ministers, which is waiting for Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri to return from his vacation in France.

Media interest in the subject has prompted officials to give greater attention to it and resulted in a new measure, which was announced by Interior Minister Michel al-Murr this evening after a meeting with the president: No Palestinians will be allowed into Lebanon without an entry visa on his passport. Let us listen to Minister al-Murr.

[Begin recording] [al-Murr] We acted promptly to halt the sea connection. After telephone consultations with the prime minister, I asked the Transport Ministry to stop sea communications between Lebanon and Libya. This measure was swiftly taken yesterday. Now that this sea line has been cut (?and they began) arriving via the airport, we have given instructions to all services at the airport. Today's instructions are more important than yesterday's. They cannot use a travel document to enter if it does not have an entry visa on it.

This is not a surprise Lebanese measure. Many Arab countries require entry visas on travel documents. So we are like the many Arab countries that require visas. They cannot enter through the airport even if they carry travel documents. All Public Security centers at the border have also been instructed to impose controls and not to allow entry to those without a visa on their travel document.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Minister, how accurate are reports that the Lebanese ambassador [to Libya] is under pressure to grant visas?

[Al-Murr] I am not the foreign minister, so I do not know what is happening with the ambassador. But according to our information, a certain number of people go to the Embassy every day. The Embassy used to issue a limited number of visas, according to its capacity--not thousands but perhaps 30, 40, 50, or 60 travel documents per day. But the foreign minister told them today to stop issuing travel documents—not only in Libya, but in all embassies abroad. [end recording]

Israeli Aircraft Carry Out Mock Raids in South

NC1009163795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the south, Israeli warplanes carried out mock raids in the Western al-Biqa' at 1600 today, dropping many thermal balloons to decoy antiaircraft missiles.

The vicinity of the town of Qabrikha came under 155-mm artillery fire from the occupation positions in Muhaydib.

Last night, the outskirts of Majdal Zun saw a fierce confrontation between occupation forces that tried to infiltrate the town and the resistance involving all types of weapons. After the clash the occupation forces retreated to their positions in the occupied strip. Afterward, the occupation forces shelled the al- Mansuri and Majdal Zun towns with heavy artillery. Earlier, the town of Haris came under heavy artillery fire.

At noon today, Israeli warplanes flew at low altitude over the Western al-Biqa' and carried out two mock raids, dropping thermal balloons.

Hizballah Calls Jerusalem Celebrations Typical

MM0809104795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Sep 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Hizballah Stresses: Peace Impossible With Israel"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH — Commenting on the Israeli celebrations in occupied Jerusalem, Hizballah stressed in a statement yesterday that "the celebrations which began under the title of third millennium anniversary of King David's declaring Jerusalem the capital of his kingdom, is only a new untrue manipulation of history, to be added to the rest of the false claims on which the artificial Zionist entity is based, with no regard to any historical, legal, or human legitimacy."

It added: "If these celebrations are clearly designed to erase the Islamic-Arab historical background of Jerusalem's history at the cultural and religious level, and to consecrate it in the Zionist way as the eternal capital of the usurping Israeli entity, this is adding nothing new to the nature of the Zionist, criminal, terrorist, and racist behavior reflected in its culture as well as the killings, slaughter, deportation, and arrests."

It went on: "What deserves a pause for examination here is the persistence in wagering on the negotiations with the Zionists, with the aim of achieving an imaginary peace under these Zionist practices, which conclusively indicate that it is impossible to establish any foundation for peace with these usurping Zionists now or in the future."

It stated: "This so-called peace is the Zionists' peace alone, and merely a framework to bring legitimacy to the occupation, consecrate the elements of existence and continuity of this entity, and help it penetrate the region and expand in it at the economic, security and cultural level. The Palestinian self-rule experiment is a fine example reflecting the nature of this peace, entirely based on the slave-master equation."

Hizballah reemphasized that "we continue to adhere to our legitimate and historical position, namely that Jerusalem is Islamic-Arab. It is Palestine's heart, and as such, the Islamic and Arab nation's heart. It will remain so even if all the earth's nations believe otherwise." In conclusion, the statement said: "The concepts of power, subjugation, and domination, and the imbalance in the balances of power on which the Zionists rely with U.S. support in their attempts to bring legitimacy to their existence, and to extract our nation's recognition of this existence and the relinquishing of its rights...these are only passages in a phase which the mujahidin's will and steadfastness in their jihad will cause to pass."

New Egyptian Ambassador Arrives in Beirut

NC0809144095 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The new Egyptian ambassador to Lebanon, 'Adil al-Khudari, arrived in Beirut from Cairo at noon today to take up his post as successor to Ambassador Sayyid Abu-Zayd 'Umar.

In an arrival statement al-Khudari said the current situations of Lebanon and Egypt provide the ideal atmosphere to rebuild various bridges between the two countries.

Al-Hirawi, Visiting Russian Official Discuss Ties

NC0709125695 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lebanese-Russian relations were reviewed today in a meeting between President Ilyas al-Hirawi and (Viktor Kolyakov), member of the Russian Higher Defense Council. Minister Walid Junblatt and Russian Ambassador in Beirut Gennadiy Ilichev attended the meeting. (Kolyakov) said the purpose of the visit is to promote relations between friends and renew ties between Lebanon and Russia.

Daily Cites President on Peace Process Issues

JN0809172895 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 6 Sep 95 p 1

[Editorial: "Raising the Level of Negotiations Is the Disease, Not the Remedy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The assertions and statements made by President Hafiz al-Asad during his joint news conference with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak in Cairo at the conclusion of the Syrian-Egyptian summit drew the attention of Arab and international media. Political sources and circles also took great interest in President's Hafiz al-Asad's statements on Arab conditions and the peace process, which has reached a stalemate because Israel's positions and policies are very far from the bases and principles of just and comprehensive peace.

President Hafiz al-Asad said the peace process is dormant, that Syria abides by international resolutions, and that the Israelis' demands are made outside the framework of international resolutions. As always, President al-Asad was very clear with his assertions. He clarified the matters, with confidence and great understanding of Israel's maneuvers, procrastinations, and tricks that will no longer deceive anybody. When Israel demands a higher level of negotiations on the Syrian track, it in fact is trying to complicate the peace process and avoid the obligations and requirements which this process dictates.

Out of its desire to make the peaceful endeavors successful based on justice, respect of rights, and comprehensiveness, Syria has responded twice to U.S. efforts and raised the level of negotiations to that of the two chiefs of staff; but Israel did not, as experience has proved, take that desire seriously. Instead, it set more impossible conditions—a move which shows that the question is not one of raising the level of negotiations. Israel's proposal is another pretext to avoid the principles of peace and bypass the peace process demanded by international Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, which are the terms of reference of the peace process in accordance with the Madrid conference formula and the principle of land for peace.

Israel, which continues to speak fine empty words about peace, has not yet pledged to implement these resolutions or announced its commitment to fully withdraw from the Golan Heights to beyond the 4 June 1967 lines and end all shapes and forms of occupation.

Therefore, President Hafiz al-Asad stressed that the higher level of negotiations complicated matters and jammed, to a large extent, the road of the peace process. The remedy is not in raising the level of negotiations, because what Israel is demanding is the disease and not the remedy.

This disease is caused by Israel's avoidance of the requirements of peace. When Israel tries to neglect facts, it exposes itself and its policy that seeks to maintain the occupied Arab territories and sabotage the peace process. If Israel had been serious about making peace, it would have extended its hand and responded to honest endeavors to establish just and comprehensive peace. Through its pretexts, proposals, and obstacles, Israel has missed all opportunities provided by Syria to reach peace. Moreover, Israel has stepped up its hostile practices and adheres to its partial solutions and unilateral deals that will never make a true peace.

Ba'th Party Official Receives Kurd Leader

NC0809171195 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Syrian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] Secretary General Jalal Talabani and his delegation at the party's national headquarters in Damascus at noon yesterday. During the one-hour meeting they reviewed the current situation in Iraq and ways to boost bilateral relations.

At the [words indistinct] party headquarters last night, Talabani and his delegation visited [words indistinct]. He met pan-Arab trend officials in the Iraqi opposition and discussed with them events in Iraq. At 2000 yesterday, Talabani visited the homes of prominent political figures in the Iraqi opposition, including former Iraqi Foreign Minister Talib Habib and Muhammad [last name indistinct], an official in the Iraqi Arab opposition. They discussed conditions in Iraq, regional and world developments, and the defection of Husayn Kamil to Jordan.

Papers Discuss Peace Process Policies

Comment on Israeli Position

JN0809110995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 8 Sep 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial today, AL-BA'TH discusses Israel's attempt to evade its responsibility toward the peace efforts. The paper says: When Israel broke the agreement on the set of understandings and then retreated from the results of the military talks in Washington, it tried through various ways and means to evade its responsibility toward the peace efforts and blame Syria for the consequences. However, no one believed this gimmick. The deceptive campaign launched by the Israeli officials vanished quickly and the world stuck to its conviction that Israel is solely responsible for the stalemate in the peace process.

AL-BA'TH adds: Strangely, Israel returned once again to speak about raising the level of negotiations although this idea is definitely rejected by Syria on the basis of reality and logic, which confirm that he who wishes to achieve progress can do so even at the minimum level. In this regard, the paper notes what President Hafiz al-Asad has stressed in his recent news conference in Cairo; that raising the level of negotiations is the disease and not the remedy.

In a commentary today, AL-THAWRAH discusses the precise characterization which President Hafiz al-Asad gave at a joint new conference, which he held with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak at the conclusion of the Syrian-Egyptian summit, of the stumbling peace process on the Syrian track and the state of dormancy and the reasons behind it. AL-THAWRAH says: This characterization provides a lively, full, and comprehensive portrait of the reality in terms of the dedicated Syrian political action that abides by right and the international resolutions, on which the peace process was based; and in terms of the opposite stand adopted by Israel, which is undedicated and which insists on demands, the major part of which are outside the framework of the international resolutions. This stand indicates a lack of support for the peace process and reveals the party that benefits from the deadlock in the peace process.

Concluding its commentary, the paper stresses that Syria seeks a just and comprehensive peace with all its elements; a peace that guarantees the return of territory and complete Israeli withdrawal to beyond the 4 June 1967 lines and ensures dignity and security to all parties.

In another commentary entitled "The Responsibility for Peace," AL-THAWRAH emphasizes that from the very beginning, Syria stressed that it supports the Madrid peace formula and demonstrated its keenness for the objective bases set in this formula. Syria also confirmed throughout the various stages of the peace process that it works to ensure its success and that it is Israel which persists in placing obstacles on the path of the peace process in order to foil it.

The paper notes that Israel continues to promote false and fabricated accusations against Syria. The paper says: By making such false accusations, Israel seeks to evade the peace requirements and to weaken Syria's position which is committed to the establishment of the just and comprehensive peace and ending the Israeli occupation of Arab territory. The paper stresses that such a goal is unattainable because Syria's position is firm, declared, and specified and is appreciated by everyone and conforms with the UN Security Council resolutions and the U.S. initiative. Also because Syria, as testified by the entire world, has offered a great deal to ensure the success of peace at the time when Israel continued to reject its principles and obstruct its progress.

AL-THAWRAH points out that this Syrian position remained unchanged. Syria continued to adhere to the principles of peace and rejected the so-called peace of stages, half-peace, separate deals, or the other deceptive Israeli terminology which seeks to destroy the genuine peace. Syria stresses that peace must be just and comprehensive and must meet all conditions. Otherwise, there can be no peace.

Comment on Government Policy

JN1009202195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0440 GMT 10 Sep 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH discusses the policy of pressures and the attempts to undermine the Syrian position, noting that those pressures will end in utter failure. The paper says that Arab Syria has not and will not resort to the so-called policy of axes. This is because defending the Arab nation's rights and maintaining its existence and dignity are among the firm principles on which leader struggler President Hafiz al- Asad builds his decisions and honorable stands.

AL-BA'TH stresses that Arab Syria supports all policies proceeding from the pan-Arab principles that are based on not relinquishing an iota of rights and maintaining dignity. The paper says that those principles constitute the criterion for Syria's dealing with all Arabs, where there is no room for the policy of axes which could pave the way for inter-Arab conflicts, something which is adamantly resisted by Syria.

AL-BA'TH exprcsses the conviction that the objective of a just, comprehensive peace in the region can be attained through the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy and the United Nations. Action to achieve this objective is the responsibility of Israel, which has so far been trying to obstruct and complicate the peace process, the paper maintains.

AL-BA'TH urges those trying to belittle Syria's stands to stop their losing wagers, for peace must be based on known bases and requirements, rather than on wagers.

TISHRIN writes on the peace process in the region and the Israeli evasion of the requirements of a just, comprehensive peace, noting Israel's procrastination and obstacles to the efforts being exerted to achieve a just, comprehensive peace. The paper says that although the Rabin government promised to work to achieve peace when it came to power in Israel, it changed its stands and adopted the Shamir government's plan of maneuvering and procrastination. As a result, the peace process has been stalled on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and distorted on the Palestinian track.

TISHRIN stresses that Syria supports a just, comprehensive peace that brings an end to the occupation, restores rights to their owners, and preserves dignity. The paper stresses that Syria does not build its policy on promises by any party. Rather, it builds its policy on facts and realities.

TISHRIN indicates that the facts and realities of the peace process since the convocation of the Madrid conference indicate that Israel will not respond to the conditions of a just, comprehensive peace, and that it seeks to dilute the UN Security Council resolutions and hold partial deals that have nothing to do with peace. On the contrary, such deals can lead to regional tension.

TISHRIN says that Syria sees no possibility for peace in the Middle East without Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan and the occupied Arab territories, the return of the Israeli troops to the 4 June 1967 lines, and abidance by international law.

TISHRIN believes that whoever thinks that Syria is breathless to arrive at any settlement or that it can give up an inch of its territory or any of its rights must be deluded and mistaken.

AL-THAWRAH discusses the Israeli attempts to Judaize occupied Jerusalem. The paper says that the Israeli intentions and efforts to decide the future of the holy city in accordance with its plans and concepts aim at seizing the city and declaring it, in accordance with the Zionist ideological rhetoric, the unified capital of Israel.

AL-THAWRAH continues: The negotiations between Israel and the self-rule authority are based on concessions offered by the self- rule authority without taking the consequences into consideration. In such an atmosphere that can lead to countless mistakes, substantive and basic issues, such as water, settlements, refugees, Jerusalem, and even Hebron, are being ignored. Meanwhile, details are left for later stages.

AL-THAWRAH adds: In this context, Israel will be more capable of scoring gains in in view of the negotiatory basis which is built on concessions.

AL-THAWRAH demands Arab, Islamic, and international moves to confront the Israeli schemes. It stresses that before anything else Jerusalem is an Arab Islamic and Christian city. The city contains more Islamic and Christian holy places than the places alleged by Zionism to be Jewish holy places. The paper stresses that Resolution 242 applies to Jerusalem, exactly like the rest of the occupied Arab territories.

Afghanistan

Taleban Denies Charges of Support From Pakistan

LD1009215695 Tehran IRNA in English 2104 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Sep 10 (IRNA) — The Afghan Student Movement of Taleban Sunday [10 September] denied the charges that Pakistan helped it achieve recent victories in war-torn Afghanistan.

A spokesman of Taleban, Mufti Masoom Afghani told IRNA on the telephone that it did not have the backing of any foreign country.

An Afghan Government official last week claimed that the administration of President Borhanoddin Rabbani had some evidence about relations of Pakistan Army Intelligence Agency with Taleban.

He also claimed to have recordings of conversation of Pakistani officials with Taleban.

Meanwhile, Maulvi Gul Hashim, a spokesman of Taleban in Pakistan's northwestern town of Peshawar had condemned the attack by angry mobsters on the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul and held the Rabbani government responsible for the ransacking which culminated in the killing of an embassy staffer and injuring others including the ambassador.

Pakistani press have been lambasting the Kabul administration for the last few days for its alleged incompetency to control the unruly mob and to provide adequate security to the Pakistani mission.

Cabinet Regrets Loss of Life at Pakistani Embassy

LD0909183595 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An extraordinary session of the Council of Ministers was held this morning at Golkhana Palace, chaired by esteemed Engineer Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai, acting prime minister.

The press office of the Council of Ministers reports to BAKHTAR that at this session, first esteemed Mohammad Yonis Qanuni, general head of the army political affairs and acting minister of defense [name and title as heard], briefed the Council of Ministers on recent days' political and military developments. Esteemed Qanuni shed light on political-military developments in the north, central regions, and in the west of the country.

In resolutely denouncing military intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, including intervention by the government of Pakistan, the Council of Ministers expressed its profound sadness concerning the events at the Pakistani embassy.

The Council of Ministers asked the Presidency to appoint a joint delegation from the Cabinet and the Presidency to investigate the causes leading to the events at the Pakistani embassy in Kabul so that legal action can be taken.

Embassy Attack To Be Investigated

LD1009175195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A High State Council session was held today and chaired by Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and chairman of the High State Council, at the presidential headquarters.

Announcing this, the High State Council's secretariat reported to BAKHTAR that the session had discussed the country's political and military situation, and considered the ending of war and ensuring of a permanent peace in our country, Afghanistan, as an urgent and important task. [passage omitted]

On the instruction of the Afghan president, the High State Council's session appointed a special commission headed by Attorney General Mawlawi Mohammad Qasem to investigate, as soon as possible, the causes of disorders that occurred in Pakistan's embassy and the reasons for the injuries to the embassy staff and prepare an official report on its work.

The session also discussed a number of other issues included in the agenda and made the necessary decisions regarding them.

Rabbani Message Assails Attack on Pakistan Embassy

LD1109102195 Tehran IRNA in English 0849 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Sept. 11, IRNA — In a message to the Pakistani Government, President Borhanoddin Rabbani of Afghanistan expressed sorrows over last Wednesday's [6 September] attack on the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul.

The embassy was set on fire last Wednesday by a group of Afghan people for what was called Pakistan's support for the Taleban group. One person was killed and 26 others wounded and the embassy premises damaged during the attack.

The message, put at the disposal of IRNA by Seyyed Suleyman Shah, the official in charge of the Afghanistan Embassy, here Monday, expressed hope that the attack which it said was carried out by a group of opportunists would not mar mutual ties between the two countries.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto described the incident as a criminal act and Foreign Minister Asif Ahmad Ali urged the Kabul government to officially apologize.

Suleyman Shah said the government and president of Afghanistan denounced the attack strongly and termed it contrary to diplomatic principles and international laws.

Foreign Minister Ends 'Secret' Talks With Iran

NC0909083195 Paris AFP in English
0812 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept 9 (AFP) - Afghan Foreign Minister Najibollah Lafra'i wound up a visit here focused on the Taleban militia's capture of all of western Afghanistan bordering Iran, Afghan sources said Saturday [9 September].

They said Lafra'i left on Thursday night with General Abdullah [name as received], the Afghan defence ministry's spokesman whom the Taleban said they captured while taking the city of Herat.

The foreign minister held "secret" talks with Iranian officials since Tuesday, when the government lost control of Herat and the western province of the same name.

Iran reacted by sealing its border with Afghanistan and warned the militia, led by religious students, to stay clear of border regions with the Islamic republic.

The foreign ministry on Friday urged Afghan factions to stop fighting.

Rabbani Troops Repulse Taleban Attack on Kabul

BK0809131795 Hong Kong AFP in English
1243 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sept 8 (AFP) — The beleaguered Afghan Government fought off a Taleban offensive on Kabul's western frontline, while a key rival faction Friday [8 September] warned that any military plane bringing supplies from Tajikistan would be shot down.

The Defence Ministry said troops loyal to President Borhanoddin Rabbani repulsed a night-time infantry offensive by the Taleban militia against the western frontlines guarding Kabul.

"The Taleban launched three unsuccessful assaults at us last night," the official said.

The attacks, which came from the direction of the Taleban-controlled provincial capital of Maydan Shahr, 30 kilometers (20 miles) west of Kabul, went on for four hours, finishing at 3:00 a.m. local time (2230 GMT).

The Defence Ministry official said the Taleban suffered "heavy casualties" in its failed attack and that bodies of their dead fighters were still lying in the area.

In Pakistan, Sighatullah Zaki, spokesman for Uzbek Militia Chief Abdul Rashid Dostam, warned that if airlifts of military supplies from Tajikistan were not halted by Saturday, then aircraft would be shot down.

Zaki in a statement claimed three military transport planes from Russia and Tajikistan flew over Dostam-controlled northern Afghanistan toward Kabul on Friday.

They were believed to be carrying military supplies for the Rabbani government, he said, adding that in the past also similar flights had been going to Kabul with arms and ammunition.

He said a warning was issued previously by the multi-party Supreme Coordination Council of Islamic Afghanistan (SCCIRA).

"We would like to issue the last warning now that after 24 hours, any aircraft from outside flying over the area controlled by the Council, without prior permission and clearance, will be shot down," Zaki said.

The SCCIRA includes Dostam's National Movement and former premier Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Eslami [Islamic Party], besides some smaller factions.

Dostam planes reportedly provided cover to the Taleban and Hezb forces in their recent clashes with the government forces.

The Taleban militia of religious students scored a stunning military victory over pro-Rabbani troops Tuesday when they captured the strategic western provincial capital Herat.

The situation in Kabul remains calm and there were no signs of sagging morale among pro-Rabbani troops, who, although understanding the importance of Herat's fall, expressed classic Afghan stoicism at this loss.

"We will return to fight them again, and, God-willing, re-take Herat," vowed a Defence Ministry officer.

However, the government did receive an appeal from the 52-nation Organization of [the] Islamic Conference (OIC) to protect all diplomatic missions in Afghanistan.

It condemned Wednesday's mob attack on the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul, in which one mission employee was killed and 28 others, including Ambassador Qazi Humayun, were seriously injured.

Pakistan evacuated its entire diplomatic staff from Kabul on Thursday after a mob of more than 3,000 people set the building ablaze.

OIC Secretary General Hamid Alghabid, in a message to the Pakistani Government expressing sympathy for victims of the "outrageous assault", called upon the Kabul authorities to take "appropriate measures" to ensure the protection of all diplomatic missions in accordance with international conventions, official sources in Islamabad said.

Wednesday's attack came a day after Afghan president, Borhanoddin Rabbani, accused Pakistan of militarily helping the Taleban Islamic student militia. Islamabad denied the allegations, saying that it maintained "total neutrality.

Taleban Said Preparing 'Major Attack' on Kabul

*LD1109081595 Tehran IRNA in English
0708 GMT 11 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Sept. 11, IRNA — A spokesman for the Afghan Taleban group announced in Peshawar Sunday [10 September] that Taleban forces were preparing to launch a major attack on the Afghan capital city, Kabul. According to reports reached here Sunday night, Mulawi Gulhashem said that the forces, equipped with weapons and ammunition, were being dispatched from Kandahar and Ghazni to Maydan Shahr and Lowgar in west and south of Kabul.

The two regions, located 40 and 45 km west and south of Kabul, were captured by Taleban forces last winter and were scene of clashes between the group and government forces.

Gulhashem added that the final attack to overthrow Rabbani's government would be launched soon upon seizure of provinces in southwest of Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, impartial Afghan sources believe that forces of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan, led by Golboddin Hekmatyar, would also launch attacks against positions of government forces from an area 45 km east of Kabul if Taleban attacked the capital.

In a meeting with members of the executive council of the Islamic Party leadership last week, Hekmatyar discussed the possibility of cooperation between the Islamic Party and Taleban to launch operations against Rabbani's government.

Hekmatyar Seeks Taleban for Anti-Rabbani Front

*BK0809160295 Hong Kong AFP in English
1533 GMT 8 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Sept 8 (AFP) — Former Afghan premier Golboddin Hekmatyar Friday [8 September] proposed an alliance between his faction and the Taleban religious movement to oust President Burhanuddin Rabbani from power in Kabul.

"Together we can take over Kabul within two days," the Hezb-i- Islami leader said, while addressing Afghan refugees at Shamshatu camp near here.

"We are ready to cooperate with Taleban," Hekmatyar said, urging the student-led movement to link up with his party "sincerely and honestly."

Hekmatyar, whose forces were driven by the Taleban from their Charasyab base in the vicinity of Kabul in February, said his faction wanted a non-party interim setup in Kabul to organise elections in the country.

Indicating improvement in ties with the movement, Hekmatyar said his men had helped them in recent fighting against Rabbani's forces at Girishk in southwestern Helmand province which was taken over by Taleban.

Rabbani has come under increasing pressure with Taleban's stunning military successes in southwestern Afghanistan, particularly their capture of strategic Sindand airbase and Herat region on the Iran border.

The forces of Uzbek general Abdul Rashid Dostam, an ally of Hekmatyar in a multi-party anti-Rabbani coalition, have also claimed the capture of Baghdis province in the west from the Rabbani loyalists.

In his speech, Hekmatyar strongly condemned the burning of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul on Wednesday, saying the "shameful" attack violated "Islamic, Pushtun and Afghan traditions."

Government Forces Shoot Down 2 'Enemy' Aircraft

*LD0909180995 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Two enemy jet aircraft were shot down today over Balkh Province. Eight positions along the Safed Kowtal-e, and (?11 villages) in Sholgara district were cleared of militia.

An Armed Forces source reported to BAKHTAR that the first jet, while bombarding an area in sub-district of Koshenda, Sholgara District, was hit by Mojahedin ground fire and shot down. The second jet was shot down around noon by Mojahedin anti-aircraft ground fire over Khoram District, Samangan Province. No report was available on fate of the pilots.

According to reports, heavy fighting has been continuing all day today in Sholgara District between the Islamic army and the Dostam militia, as a result of which 11 villages were seized by the Mojahedin. Eight important positions along the direction of Safed Kowtal-e were conquered by the Mojahedin. The Qarah Jangal village in the west of Charchal valley was also seized. In the course of these clashes, dozens of militiamen were killed and one militia tank was destroyed.

According to another report, two attacks by the Dostam militia launched around the Provinces of Konduz and Jowzjan, were neutralized. The report also says that last night the Dostam militia attacked areas located in Raq Tapa [name as heard], Konduz Province, which was defeated, as a result of resistance by the units of the Islamic army. In the course of this attack, several militiamen were killed and two militiamen captured. The Mojahedin seized four Goryunovs [23mm Russian-made artillery], one rocket launcher, and a number of light weapons. One of the enemy BM-1's was set on fire. Another attack by the militia was defeated in Kuhestanat District.

Another report says that this morning the Dostam militia bombarded the (?Akash area), Sang-e Charak District, Jowzjan Province. As a result of this savage bombardment, three women and one child were martyred. A number of houses and farms sustained damage.

Governor Pledges To Free Province From Taleban

NC1009082095 Paris AFP in English
0753 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept 10 (AFP) - The former governor of the western Afghan province of Herat, Isma'il Khan, vowed here Sunday [10 September] to dislodge the Taleban militia which captured the strategic region bordering Iran.

Isma'il Khan, who fled to Iran Tuesday after the fall of Herat's main city of the same name, said in an interview with JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI daily that "resistance cells" had been formed in Herat, 120 kilometers (90 miles) from the Iranian border, to fight the Taleban.

"Operations are underway and we will soon liberate Herat," he said. "Most of the regions in Herat are currently under the control of" forces loyal to the former governor, who is a strategic ally of Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

Khan accused the intelligence services of Pakistan, Israel and the United States of being behind the student-led Taleban's advance on western Afghanistan.

Afghan Foreign Minister Najibollah Lafra'i paid an unannounced visit to Iran this week to discuss the fall of Herat.

Taleban Leader Appoints Herat Province Officials

LD1009221995 Tehran IRNA in English
2112 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kerat, Sep 10 (IRNA) — Taleban leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar appointed his secretary for political affairs, Molavi Mullah Mohammad Rabbani as the head of the Taleban group in Herat.

Afghan sources said that Molavi Rabbani has also assigned Mullah Abbas Qandahari as the acting governor general of Herat.

The designation was made at a meeting between members of Herat's Council of Clerics and the Taleban Leadership Council.

Molavi Abdul Majid and Molavi Gholam Sarvar were also appointed as the head of Islamic guidance department and the department for enjoining good and prohibiting evil, respectively.

Mohammad Abdulsalam has undertaken the command of the Fourth Corps in Herat.

Head of the Taleban in Herat, Molavi Mohammad Rabbani said that no one is allowed to trespass upon the homes of people without authorization from the judicial officials.

He designated Molavi Khodadad as the head of justice department in Herat to deal with trespassers.

India

Report Views U.S. Policy on Pakistan 'Terrorism'

BK1109055495 Madras THE HINDU in English
6 Sep 95 p 13

[Article by C. Raja Mohan: "India's Lonely Battle Against Terrorism"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Even as the Pakistan-sponsored groups are stepping up their terrorist violence in India, New Delhi should not pin too many hopes on convincing the "international community", a euphemism these days for the United States Government of Islamabad's complicity. In the end, India will have to plough a lonely furrow in the battle against terrorism, banking on its own resources and ingenuity.

No other nation has had to suffer such extensive cross-border terrorism as India in the 1980's and 1990's. As the Indian Republic struggles to cope with this terrorist onslaught from across the border, all that New Delhi has got from the Western democracies is an unending lecture on human rights.

But what about cooperation among the world's democracies to combat international terrorism, a goal often proclaimed by the United States? Only the politically innocent will take such assertions seriously. Such American platitudes do not amount to a political commitment to combat terrorism everywhere in the world. The United States is determined to root out terrorism where it threatens vital interests of the country. Where its basic interests are not at stake or where some other political interests are seen as taking precedence, the United

States will have no hesitation in soft-pedalling the struggle against terrorism.

Self-Interest vs. Global Norms

This is not a surprise. All great powers seek to present their particular interests in terms of universal principles. Combating terrorism is one such principle. But the implementation of the principle will always remain partial and limited, notwithstanding the rhetoric that in the post-cold war period states can conduct their policies on the basis of internationally accepted norms. "Universal principles" and "global norms" are unlikely to replace the more mundane pursuit of narrow national interests by the great powers.

There has been some hope in India that letting the Western intelligence and counter-terrorist outfits operate in the Kashmir valley in the management of the continuing hostage crisis will eventually persuade the West to see the connection between the perpetrators of terrorism in the valley and their minders in Pakistan. The immediate Western interest is in getting its hostages released by Al-Faran, and not confirming the truth about terrorism in Kashmir.

The problem has never been lack of information on Pakistan's support for terrorism within the Western governments, as suggested by the senior officials of the Clinton administration. They argue that the evidence is insufficient for the Clinton administration to brand Pakistan a state sponsor of terrorism. The truth is that all the evidence in the world is unlikely to convince the United States of the role of Pakistan in promoting terrorism in India. You can wake up a person who is sleeping, but not some one who is pretending to be asleep. No amount of terrorist violence is likely to shake the Clinton administration out of its apparent stupor on Pak- sponsored terrorism in India.

In the early 1990's, Washington did threaten to name Pakistan as a state sponsor of terrorism. Though New Delhi was rather pleased with the prospect of American condemnation of Pakistan, the American motivations had more to do with the developments in West Asia than in the Subcontinent. The apprehension that the terrorist activities from Pakistani soil are threatening the moderate Arab regimes and the Arab-Israeli peace process guided the American threat. Once Pakistan began to accommodate the American concerns in West Asia, the United States was unwilling to pursue the charges despite the accumulating evidence of continuing Pak-sponsorship of terrorism in India. The threat to Indian democracy from Pak-sponsored terrorism is obviously not a source of vital national concern for the United States.

Empty Rhetoric

For all its rhetoric on terrorism, the U.S. State Department is not an international court of law making judgments on state sponsorship of terrorism. The threat to brand a state terrorist is a lever the United States will use in the pursuit of its own interests, not India's. For good or bad, the Clinton administration has decided to revive a political relationship with Pakistan. Turning a blind eye to its promotion of terrorism in India is a small price that Washington believes it could pay in the promotion of its new interests in Pakistan.

The Clinton administration has declared Pakistan a "moderate Islamic state" that may be critical in the Western battle against religious fundamentalism and extremism. The administration also believes Pakistan has an important supportive role to play in the American strategy towards the Persian Gulf and Central Asia.

New Delhi must continue to present its case against Pakistan on terrorism. But India should have no illusions of gaining significant international cooperation, particularly from the West, in the war against terrorism. It is a war that India must fight and win on its own.

Al-Faran Reportedly Renews Threat To Kill Hostages

BK0809154395 Hong Kong AFP in English
1522 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Sept 8 (AFP) — A Muslim militant group holding four Western tourists threatened Friday [8 September] to kill the hostages if the Indian authorities fail to release 15 Muslim guerrillas from prison within 24 hours, a local newspaper said.

Al-Faran, in an Urdu-language statement received by the Srinagar newspaper, said that if the government fails to agree to its demand by Saturday evening "we will have no other alternative but to kill the hostages."

The group accused the Indian authorities of showing a "callous" attitude to the fate of the captives and said the government would be responsible for their deaths.

The statement, which resembled previous communications from Al- Faran, was received by the local newspaper AFTAB, THE SUN.

A Kashmir government spokesman here said he was not in a position to confirm whether the statement was authentic but urged the kidnappers "to refrain from taking any hasty steps."

"We can defuse this crisis by peaceful means, through talks," he said. "We once again appeal to the kidnappers to release the hostages as their loved ones are waiting for them."

In its statement, Al-Faran also said it had not been in contact recently with the Indian Government or Western diplomats here.

Another Indian Government official confirmed that official negotiators had not been in contact with Al-Faran since Monday.

"This type of gap (in contact) has occurred a number of times," he said while noting at the same time that there has been "increasing impatience in the tone of the abductors."

Al-Faran has threatened on several previous occasions to kill the hostages if its demand was not met.

One of the hostages, Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, was found beheaded last month along with a note warning that the other four would meet the same fate if the 15 Muslim militants were not released from prison.

Ostro was kidnapped near the Kashmir trekking resort of Pahalgam, some 100 kilometers (62 miles) east of here, on July 8, the same day German Dirk Hasert was seized. Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan and American Donald Hutchings were kidnapped in the Pahalgam area on July 4.

The Indian authorities have repeatedly ruled out releasing any prisoners in exchange for the hostages.

A powerful Kashmiri Muslim separatist group said meanwhile that guerrillas from four militant groups had been ordered to track down and rescue the four hostages.

Zainul Abidin, the "chief commander" of the Al-Fatah Force, a pro-Pakistan separatist group, condemned the kidnapping and called on Al-Faran to release the captives.

"Like-minded groups have drawn up a coordinated strategy to bring out the hostages," said the chief of the Al-Fatah Force, one of the most powerful of the dozens of militant groups battling Indian rule in Kashmir.

"So far we have not had any luck finding them but we are at it despite the cold weather in the woods," he said.

"The priority will be the safety of the hostages and no step will be taken that will endanger the lives of the captives," he stressed.

The Al-Fatah Force chief said the kidnappers "will be punished as per the laws of Islam" if caught. "They have killed an innocent tourist and they will have to pay for it," he said.

The Muslim separatist drive in Kashmir, India's only Muslim- majority state, has left more than 12,000 people dead since 1989.

Contact Said Established With Hostage Abductors

BK0909144995 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir Government has reestablished contact with the abductors of four foreign tourists and claimed that they are reported to be safe. An official spokesman told reporters in Srinagar that the contact was reestablished with the abductors last evening with the help of intermediaries. He said the hostages were reported to be safe. The spokesman, replying to a question, said it was a telephonic contact. He said the government's fresh appeal was conveyed to the abductors to release the hostages unharmed and not to take any hasty action.

Al-Faran Abductors Reportedly Extend Deadline

BK0909161295 Hong Kong AFP in English 1528 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Sept 9 (AFP) — The Moslem rebel abductors of four Westerners in Kashmir Saturday [9 September] extended at the 11th hour a deadline set for their execution, according to a statement issued to a newspaper here.

An Urdu-language statement, apparently released by the Al-Faran to the Urdu-language daily Al-Safa, said the "deadline had been extended at the request of the hostages' relatives."

It did not specify when the new deadline would end, but warned Indian authorities that the four captives would be executed if 15 jailed Moslem militants were not released.

There was no official confirmation if the statement was genuine but journalists said it matched previous Al-Faran messages.

A Kashmir government spokesman here said that the Moslem separatist group Al-Faran had been in touch with the Kashmir authorities on Friday, their first contact with government negotiators in four days.

Al-Faran, in an Urdu-language statement received by a Srinagar newspaper on Friday, said that if the government failed to agree to its demand by Saturday evening "we will have no other alternative but to kill the hostages."

The group accused the Indian authorities of showing a "callous" attitude to the fate of the captives and said the government would be responsible for their deaths.

The spokesman reiterated that authorities were not planning a military operation to rescue the two Britons, an American and a German held by Al-Faran.

Al-Faran beheaded another hostage, Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, last month and warned that the other four could meet the same fate if the 15 Moslem militants were not released from prison.

Ostro was kidnapped near the Kashmir trekking resort of Pahalgam, some 100 kilometers (62 miles) east of here, on July 8, the same day German Dirk Hasert was seized. Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan and American Donald Hutchings were kidnapped in the Pahalgam area on July 4.

Further on Extended Deadline

BK1009084995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the Kashmir Valley, the militant outfit Al-Faran has extended the deadline for the release of the four kidnapped foreign tourists for an unspecified period. In a written statement issued to the press in Srinagar yesterday, the outfit said that it is extending the deadline at the request of the family members of the four hostages. The earlier deadline expired yesterday evening. As reported, contact between authorities and the abductors was reestablished after four days on Friday [8 September]. An official spokesman said in Srinagar that the government has no plan of any military operation to rescue the tourists. He said the authorities are trying to persuade the militant outfit to release the kidnapped.

In Srinagar, the ANI [ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL] cameraman, Mr. Mushtaq Ali, who was critically injured in Thursday's parcel bomb blast in the BBC office, succumbed to injuries in the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences this morning. The Jammu and Kashmir government has condoled the death of the 26-year-old photo journalist. It said that he fell prey to the machinations of forces from across the border, who are out to escalate violence in Jammu and Kashmir to thwart the process of normalization.

Kashmir Government Assures Security for Journalists

BK0809161695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir government has again appealed to the abductors of the four foreign tourists to release the hostages without further delay. An official spokesman said in Srinagar today that the abductors should respond to the worldwide appeals. The tourists have spent 67 days in the militants' captivity.

Meanwhile, the state government has assured security to all the media persons working in the state in view of yesterday's powerful bomb blast in the BBC office in Srinagar. An official spokesman said this in Srinagar this afternoon. He said the bomb blast was part of the efforts being made from across the border to escalate violence in Jammu and Kashmir. The ANITV [Asian News International Television] cameraman, Mushtaq Ali, who was injured in yesterday's bomb blast, is still critical in the Sher-i-Kashmir medical institute at Sura. The condition of another injured photo journalist, Habibullah Naqash, is reported stable and is out of danger. Several leaders, organizations, and media persons have condemned the attack on BBC office. The Foreign Correspondents Club of South Asia, in a statement, in New Delhi today has called on all parties in Kashmir to respect the impartiality and neutrality of the media and allow media personnel to work freely.

Journalists Strike To Mourn Death of Colleague

BK1009130295 Hong Kong AFP in English 1234 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, India, Sept 10 (AFP)— Journalists based in this Kashmir summer capital went on a three-day strike starting Sunday [10 September] to mourn the death of AFP's Srinagar photographer Mushtaq Ali.

Ali, 30, the AFP photo stringer here since 1990, died in hospital on Sunday of injuries suffered on Thursday when he opened a parcel bomb intended for the British Broadcasting Corporation correspondent in Srinagar.

No group has claimed responsibility for the blast which also slightly injured Yusuf Jameel, the BBC and the Reuters news agency correspondent here, and Habibullah Naqash, a photographer for the Asian Age newspaper.

Ali, who also worked as a cameraman for Asian News International television, was the fifth journalist to die in Kashmir, where a Muslim separatist drive has left 12,000 people dead since 1989.

At a meeting attended here by around 40 journalists, it was decided to strike work from Sunday afternoon to Wednesday afternoon.

Local newspapers will not appear on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday.

Ali was buried here Sunday at an Islamic service attended by top leaders of the Kashmiri Muslim separatist movement and dozens of journalists, including a distraught Jameel, a close friend of the slain photographer.

Apart from mourners taking part in Ali's funeral procession, Srinagar was mostly deserted on Sunday, the second day of a three- day strike called by a coalition of Kashmir Muslim separatist groups to protest the attack.

Bombs Reportedly Explode Near Sri Lankan Mission

BK1109070295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0630 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Madras, two country bombs exploded near the office of Deputy High Commissioner of Sri Lanka early this morning. The windowpanes of the office and neighboring houses were damaged. Police said there was no casualty. A policeman, who was on guard when the explosions occurred, said that the first one which took place just outside the gate was immediately followed by another a few feet inside the premises.

Four 'Foreign Mercenaries' Killed in Kashmir

BK1109091595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Kashmir valley, four foreign mercenaries and three security personnel were killed in an encounter between the militants and a joint team of the Army, CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force], and the Jammu and Kashmir police last night in village (Bhagatkanipur) in Srinagar. Four AK-47 rifles, two pistols, and a large quantity of ammunition were recovered from the site of the encounter. The commander of the security operations in northern Kashmir, Major General T.B. Shekatkar, said that the Army has launched a special operation against the foreign mercenaries operating in Kashmir valley.

President Accepts Resignation of Affairs Minister

BK1109005495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The union urban affairs and employment minister, Mrs. Sheila Kaul, has resigned. The president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, on the advice of the prime minister has accepted her resignation from the council of ministers.

Article Addresses Recent Bhutto Interview, Kashmir

BK0809091495 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 5 Sep 95 p 8

[Article by J.N. Dixit: "Ms Bhutto's Interview Not the True Picture"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There are two provocations for this article. First is Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's recent interview in which she said that Al Faran is a creation Indian intelligence agencies and asserted that there is a contradiction in policies regarding Pakistan between Rajiv Gandhi and Narasimha Rao. The second is the accusation against me about suggesting a plebiscite in Kashmir "endangering India's vital interests".

To take the first, Al Faran declares itself to be a group related to the Harkatul Ansar. The Harkatul Ansar and its various sub- groups of terrorist criminals now consist incontrovertibly of foreign mercenaries trained by Pakistan. A majority of them are former so called Afghan Mujahideen. The Harkatul Ansar and all its cohorts have acknowledged links with the Jamaat-i-Islami of Pakistan. Maulana Fazlur Rahman of the Jamaat has publicly acknowledged his connections with Al Faran and Harkatul Ansar. Ms Bhutto's argument that the Indian Intelligence created this group to embarrass the Pakistan Government is a patently specious argument.

When asked about the publicity given through government audio- visual media to the perpetrator of the destruction of the Charar Sharif shrine, Ms Bhutto accused a General of the Indian Army of having destroyed the Charar Sharif shrine, whose name she "could not remember"! But the basis of this assertion is that this General who was a Brigadier about nine years ago was also the man who had attacked the Golden Temple. It would take quite a flight of imagination to believe that "Operation Bluestar" was based on the inclinations of a single Brigadier in the Indian Army.

Leaving aside the irrationality of such assertions, what we should note is the mischief inherent in Ms Bhutto's accusations about this former Brigadier "who now is a General". She is trying to project the officer cadre of the Indian Army as anti-Muslim and anti-Sikh. This naive attempt at eroding India's sense of national solidarity and faith in our armed forces cannot be allowed to succeed. There is enough evidence about the conversations between the terrorists led by Mast Gul who had holed up in the Charar Sharif shrine and the ISI [Inter Service Intelligence] controls in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir and in Pakistani territory to nail this exercise in political mendacity.

To questions about Mast Gul, Ms Bhutto's response was ingenious. She states: "Mast Gul had nothing to do with the burning of the Charar Sharif... As far as Mast Gul is concerned, we (the Pakistan Government) learned from the papers that he had arrived in Pakistan... through the Jamaat-i-Islami. We are taking this matter up with the Jamaat-i-Islami." Ms Bhutto went on to express "surprise to read in the press that the Jamaat-i-Islami had taken Mast Gul on tour and he had come on TV". It would be relevant to point out that the Pakistan TV is an agency so totally controlled by the Government that even mild views opposing the Government are not allowed in its telecasts.

She then sinks into a quagmire of her own contradictions. She goes on to say "A lot of Pakistanis have a great degree of admiration for him (Mast Gul), because they feel that he escaped from the hands of the Indians and was raising his voice for Kashmir. But as far as the Government is concerned, we do not believe that it is appropriate for our international standing or the Kashmiri freedom struggle to have the Jamaat-i-Islami take a person even if he is highly regarded in this fashion."

I have also been honoured by Ms Bhutto referring to me in connection with her exchanges with me at the Cyprus Commonwealth summit in October, 1993. Her claim that the Foreign Secretary-level talks held in January, 1994 were a result of a verbal initiative taken by her with me at Cyprus is less than accurate.

Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, in his message of congratulations to Ms Bhutto on being re-elected to the office, had indicated India's willingness to resume Foreign Secretary-level talks. The Hazratbal crisis had commenced even before the Cyprus summit. In his letter, Mr Rao had indicated that India is willing to discuss issues related to Jammu and Kashmir [J&K].

She is wrong in her assertion that I refused to talk about Kashmir with my Pakistani counterpart when I went to Islamabad. In fact, I not only discussed various issues related to Kashmir with the then Pakistan Foreign Secretary, Mr Shahriyar Khan, but I discussed the Kashmir issue with Ms Bhutto herself when she kindly received me in Karachi in the afternoon of January 2, 1994. In that meeting she told me that regardless of the ups and downs of various events and attitudes in Pakistan and India, Foreign Secretary-level talks should continue. But when later I raised the question of fixing the dates for the next round of talks in New Delhi, my Pakistani colleague told me that while Pakistan was generally willing to continue the dialogue, he was under instructions not to agree to any definite dates.

The real Pakistani approach was revealed within minutes of my taking off from Islamabad airport when my friend,. Mr Shahriyar Khan, returned to the Islamabad airport lounge and told the Pakistani press that the question of resuming Foreign Secretary-level talks does not arise till the Indian security forces are withdrawn from the Hazratbal shrine and till there are some substantive signals about India's willingness to accept Pakistani views on Kashmir. When I had indicated to my Pakistani counterpart that I had brought six specific proposals to further the process of normalisation, I was told that I should not submit these proposals at that point of time, because "Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was on the defensive due to domestic political pressure, even about the Foreign Secretary-level talks held in January, 1994".

Pakistan then tried to take propaganda advantage by sending us two totally irrational sets of proposals as non-papers on January 18. We sent the proposals which I had mentioned to Mr Shahriyat Khan on January 24. India and Pakistan rejected each other's proposals. The rest is dismal history. Ms Bhutto has tried to attribute the present Indo-Pak impasse to Mr Rao's negative stance compared to the very positive attitude which Rajiv Gandhi allegedly had towards Pakistan.

This is an example of both political and intellectual myopia, because by July, 1989 when the bilateral summit between Ms Bhutto and Rajiv Gandhi took place in Islamabad, Rajiv Gandhi was quite cleat about two points: (1) that he was disappointed with Pakistan's uncompromising attitude and (2) that the question of India compromising on its territorial integrity in terms of Jammu and Kashmir just does not arise. Rajiv Gandhi had no illusions about Ms Bhutto's and the Pakistan Government's policies and attitudes. There is no contradiction between Rajiv Gandhi's policies and attitudes and the policies and attitudes of Prime Minister Narasimha Rao.

To deal with my reported suggestion for a plebiscite, I mentioned it as one means for ascertaining the wishes of our brethren in Jammu and Kashmir about their political aspirations. If it takes place at all, it should be a bilateral exercise between the Government of India and its citizens in Jammu and Kashmir. What I stated was that: (a) The issue of Kashmir cannot be solved by force alone. A solution through a political process or dialogue is necessary; (b) such a solution can be found only if it is responsive to the concerns of the people of J&K, some of whom are alienated, at present, which can happen in any democracy; (c) a political process can be through discussions, elections, a referendum or "some sort of plebiscite", provided that all external pressures and negative presences and influences from foreign countries, especially Pakistan, are removed completely and the people of J&K allowed to discuss their future with India, their own country, without external pressures. Pakistan has no role, and will not have any role in the process.

Mamata Banerjee Seen Remaining Key Congress Leader

95AS0464A Calcutta BARTAMAN in Bengali
23 JUL 95 P 4

[Article by Barun Sengupta: "The Magic of Mamata's Name"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Recently, many people thought that the magic of Mamata's name has faded to some extent. The anti-Mamata leaders of the state Congress and some of their political and non-political agents began to shout that Mamata was finished. The group of Somen Mitra proved after the municipal elections that Mamata Banerjee does not have any big role to play in the anti—Communist Party of India-Marxist [CPM] movement in this state. Some important CPM leaders began to joke about how many days a paper-balloon could fly in the sky with the help of publicity of a few newspapers. But it was proven Friday [21 July] that the magic of Mamata's name has not been reduced and she is not a paper-balloon flying with the help of some newspapers. The anti-CPM people of West Bengal still respond most to the call of Mamata. The young people of Bengal, who are not going to tolerate the bad rule of CPM, still consider Mamata as the most powerful symbol of political struggle. To hurt the July 21 rally called by Mamata, the state Congress leaders called a 'Victory Rally' in the same place three to four days ago and they now surely feel repentant for that. Their rally gave the opportunity to Mamata to prove that how much more powerful she is than the official Congress leaders. If those two rallies were not called in the same week, the supporters of Mamata could not have claimed that their leader is more popular than the other leaders. The Congress workers and the anti-CPM people responded more to their call. Now some staunch anti-Mamata, pro-Somen and pro- Priyaranjan people are saying that Mamata held that rally on the strength of money and she maybe brought out a good crowd, but can she bring votes in elections? These types of arguments can only be placed by those who are blind by jealousy and having no political sense or wisdom. It is not possible to organize such a huge rally in the rain in Calcutta just by money, it needs the popularity of the leader also. How can a person be a good vote-catcher if he or she is not a popular leader? In the recent time the late CPM leader Promod Dasgupta understood the fact of the importance of a popular leader and crowd puller in the political battle. So, in spite of knowing the faults of Jyoti Bosu and his tactical position of keeping equal distance with both the factions of the Communist party at the time of its split, Promod Dasgupta brought him in CPM and gave him important position. Because he knew that whatever organizational strength the party might have or however much great an organizer he might have been, a popular leader like Jyoti Basu was needed for electoral politics. Promod knew it well that in a vast country like this and in a populous state like West Bengal, it is impossible to fight and win a democratic election without the help of a popular leader. So, when some Communist Party of India leaders ridiculed Jyoti Bosu as a showboy and did not want to give him an important position, the intelligent leader Promod Dasgupta brought Jyoti Bosu in [CPM] and gave him an important position. He knew his importance as a vote catcher. But that glamour of Jyoti Basu is not there anymore. Then he was not known as the father of Chandan Bosu. Then the people of West Bengal did not see him as a greedy, selfish and worthless administrator. Then he was the most popular leader of CPM. The other CPM leaders like Promod Dasgupta and Harekrishna Konar, therefore, pushed Jyoti Basu in the public forum for the interest of the party knowing well his shortcomings. What are the state Congress leaders and their agents doing? It seems that they might kill Mamata if they could. Some of them want to exhibit their popularity with money from the coal mines. They do not realize that by investing money in political propaganda stolen from the accounts of Coal India, none can be another Mamata. But I found some senior leaders of the Left Front realizing the danger of the popularity of Mamata for them. One of them said that the wave of the youth force seen in the Rashid Ali Day in the Dharmatolla Street in 1945-46, he heard the description of a similar rally of youth in the meeting of Mamata. He said that we should realize that the danger is coming. Another leader said that some of us tried hard to uphold and project the group of Somen Mitra for so long, but now it appears that all went in vain. After the huge rally of Friday, that old question came up again. On senior officer asked me —"What do you think? Why Mamata is so popular? What I thought before and I still think today that there are two reasons for Mamata's popularity. One, the anti-CPM common people of this state consider her the most courageous, fighting and honest anti-CPM leader. They do not want to consider any other leader in the state in that regard. Until they would find and trust another leader of that stature, Mamata's place will remained unchallenged unless she makes any gross political mistake. Even I have noticed a separate position for Mamata in the minds of the common cadres belonging to different groups of Congress leaders. For their group affiliation they may not join her, but in private conversations they admire and respect Mamata's courageous and fighting spirit against CPM. Due to this fact, if a vote of support is taken among the ordinary Congress party workers, no other leaders can come close to Mamata. I firmly believe that if such a vote is really taken, all other leaders will forfeit their deposit. The other reason for Mamata's popularity is her financial honesty. Everyone —Congress or non-Congress supporters admire Mmamta in this respect. She lives a simple, ordinary lower middle class livelihood. After becoming a Member of parliamernt and even a minister, she did not change her life style. I personally know many examples of her financial honesty. I have been working as a political reporter in West Bengal for last 35 years and I have seen all important leaders from left, center or rightist leaning. I am not saying that Mamata is the only financially honest political personality in this state, but I have no hesitation in saying that I have rarely found an honest person like her in this state politics. Now-a-days, it is very difficult to find an honest political leader. Some of the ministers of Profulla Sen ministry are still living and many of them were in the cabinet for a long time. Whatever propaganda the communists can make, almost none of them made any money being minister. A few of them are now living in financial hardship. What to say about the present leaders and ministers? There is no difference between communist and Congress leaders in this respect. The persons who worked as a minister for three to four months managed to make enough money. And those who were in the cabinet for three to four terms, what to say about them. All their relatives have become millionaires. In these circumstances, there is no wonder that Mamata must deserve special respect of common people. I am not saying that all the present leaders of the state are dishonest. There are still some honest persons, but their number can be counted on finger tips. In the cabinet of Jyoti Bosu, how many persons like Binoy Choudhuri or Buddhadev Bhattacharya are there? The are so many leaders in the present ruling party of the state. But how many of them are honest like Niren Ghosh or Biman Bosu or Anil Biswas? There was a time when an ordinary political worker in this state could not think so easily to make money in a dishonest means. They did not take money from the business people for their personal necessity. And today? The great revolutionary leader Jyoti Basu is known today as a corrupted person. The majority of the people of the state think that he made his son another Birla by all sorts of efforts. Chandan Basu used to work as a junior officer in Bengal Lamp and rode his scooter through the streets of south Calcutta 16 to 17 years ago and now he made a lot of property even by running some failed business. In his garage, you will find some three to four expensive cars ready to go including a Mercedes Benz. At the sametime, people are seeing Mamata living in a semi-slum residence in Kalighat. Will people not respect and love her? The groups of Jyoti Basu and some Congress leaders forget that people can see and hear as they do. They may not see or hear many misdeeds of many persons, but they can know some of them. Is it not normal to consider Mamata a Goddess in comparison to those people? Will the common people not respect the Goddess or they will respect the thieves?

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayer Sermon

LD1109131595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In a speech delivered this morning at the start of a national gathering of the country's Friday prayer leaders, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the eminent leader of the Islamic revolution, described the aims behind the propaganda activities of the joint battlefront of arrogance and Zionism against Islam and the Islamic system in Iran and stressed the need for Friday prayer leaders to strive seriously and vigilantly to foil the ill-intentioned and deliberate propaganda of the enemies of Islam.

The eminent leader spoke of the opposition of hegemonistic powers to the sovereignty of religion anywhere in the world and said: The enlightening religion of Islam is constantly struggling against oppression, domination, and immorality. For this reason, the enemies of religion consider the sovereignty of Islam in Iran to be a dangerous phenomenon threatening the realization of their colonialist aims in the world and, today, they have intensified their battle against the Islamic system because they feel even more threatened by it.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i spoke of the emergence of Islamist movements in Egypt and Algeria, as well as in the heart of Europe, as a consequence of the faith felt by Muslims in the sovereignty of Islam in Iran and said:

[Begin Khamene'i recording] Now, look, a government based on the Koran, with a constitution based on the Koran and on laws that always comply with religion comes to power, run by religious ulema. This resistant, steadfast, constructive government is willing to confront arrogance - confronting both East and West at one point, going through eight years of war, achieving such publicity in the world as to strike fear in the heart of arrogance. During just these past two, three months, the Americans have experienced clear defeats at the hands of the Islamic Republic in the political arena on three issues. The entire world has said this, not just us.

Well, other countries can see this. Intellectuals and young people are excited and given hope by it and this hope drives them toward Islamic struggles. Arrogance understands this. It knows that, as long as this flame is burning here, they will have these problems. [end recording]

The eminent leader of the Islamic Revolution referred to the hostile and pre-planned activities of the enemies of Islam in politics, culture and propaganda and said: Today, we must keep a constant eye on the activities, position, programs and places of influence of the enemy in various arenas so that we may foil its blows in a knowledgeable way. His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i described the issue of propaganda as one of the kernels of the enemy's cultural onslaught and, stressing the need for vigilance and sharpness among the country's people and officials and for identifying and thwarting the enemy's aims, he said:

[Begin Khamene'i recording] Propaganda is extremely important. I already mentioned this a few days ago on another occasion. One of the important factors which are behind the events that are under way in Afghanistan at the moment is the external radio which is fanning the flames of war there with every passing day.

Radios play a role in many parts of the world. In the events taking place in the newly independent regions, in Russia, in the Balkans, the radios are creating havoc. Their effect on weak and unsuspecting nations is truly devastating. The radios are making life a misery for people in some regions. Fortunately, in Iran, thanks to the faith and vigilance with which the people are provided - and Friday prayer leaders are one of the main sources of this - the people, God be praised, have a kind of relative immunity.

Propaganda is an important matter. Propaganda reveals the enemy's intentions. In other words, the propaganda being carried out by the enemy through the radios - although it is its weapon and tool - is also useful and informative for us. We learn from its propaganda what its intentions are. [end recording]

The eminent leader described efforts to deprive the people of their faith in the future as one of the important and main axes of enemy propaganda and said: In their propaganda, hegemonistic powers pretend that the Iranian nation has no hope in its future and that there is no light visible on the horizon. The aim of the enemy's efforts in instilling hopelessness in the people of Iran is to disrupt the Islamic movement of the Iranian nation. Today, the hearts of all the Iranian people are brimming with hope, but the enemy hopes to reap the fruits of its efforts in future years.

The eminent leader of the Islamic Revolution referred to the false and unfounded propaganda of the enemy aimed at creating doubts among the people about the capabilities and effectiveness of the Islamic system's statesmen and officials and at suggesting that there are divisions among them and he added: Sowing doubts and uncertainty about the self-evident principles of the revolution and religion forms one of the important axes of the propaganda of global arrogance.

Throughout many years, certain elements have tried, with total wickedness and slyness, to drive religion into the corners of prayer centres, mosques and houses, but the Muslim people of Iran have learned very clearly and have faith in the fact that government and politics are part and parcel of the self-evident bases of Islam and that the administration of religion is one of the religious duties of Muslims and government is one of the elements of religion. Religion is for governing the people's lives and the separation of religion from politics is not possible.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i described the casting of doubts on the principle of the rule by supreme jurisconsult as one of the enemy's propaganda tactics and said: The rule of supreme jurisconsult - in the sense of rule by a religious expert - is something better than which is inconceivable for humanity in terms of credibility and authority and in terms of mental and conceptual investigations, and, today, this important idea has been realized in Iran's Islamic society. Casting doubts on the insistence on Islamic principles and foundations in the face of national interest is another of the enemy's propaganda aims. What is evident, however, is that the long-term interest of an Islamic community cannot be realized other than under Islam and the Koran.

The eminent leader of the Islamic Revolution described the rule of divine values as the only method of government which can answer the needs of human life and, elsewhere in his speech, he referred to the propaganda efforts of the enemy to create divisions among the Iranian nation and other Muslim nations and said: Hundreds of books have been published in the world against Shi'ism and the Islamic system which are aimed at putting out the flame of the faith and love of Muslim youth who chant slogans - in Egypt, Algeria and other countries in North Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Asia - in the name of the Islamic Republic, the revolution and the eminent Imam.

Using various methods, the enemies of Islam have concentrated their efforts on breaking the link between the Muslim youth of the world and the revolution and the Islamic system, trying to erect a barrier between the Iranian nation and other Muslim nations.

The eminent leader stressed the need for the ulema and Friday prayer leaders to strive to foil the ill-intentioned and anti- Islamic propaganda of the enemy and, closing his remarks addressed to the prayer leaders, he said: We are in the battlefield of a propaganda war with the enemy and not a single word must be uttered which can be taken advantage of by the enemy, and any shot that is fired in this battle must be to the disadvantage of the enemy. [passage omitted]

U.S. Objections to Russian Cooperation Viewed

NC1009053995 Tehran SALAM in Persian 4 Sep 95 p 3

[From the "Hello SALAM!" Column]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Caller] In my opinion, the United States does not object to Iran gaining access to nuclear weapons. The ostensible U.S. opposition to Russia in this regard is solely because Iran has mutual interests with Russia where regional issues are concerned.

[SALAM] The inimical approach by the United States toward Iran is completely obvious and undeniable since the outset of the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

The United States fears all kinds of possibilities that can enhance Iran's political or military capabilities and by all possible means, it seeks to prevent Iran from obtaining any kind of economic or military capability. Among the issues that have aroused the U.S. sensitivity more than anything else is the closeness between Iran and Russia. This is because this closeness can have unpleasant repercussions for U.S. interests in the region. [passage omitted]

'High-Ranking' Iraqi Delegation Arrives

LD1009164095 Tehran IRNA in English 1616 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sep 10 (IRNA) — A high ranking Iraqi delegation led by Iraqi First Deputy Foreign Minister, Sa'di 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal, arrived here Sunday [10 September].

While in Iran the Iraqi delegation is to discuss Tehran-Baghdad bilateral relations as well as issues related to implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 598 which stopped the eight-year Iraqi war (1980-88).

The Iraqi delegation will meet several Iranian political officials.

Delegations Discuss Post-War Issues

LD1109104895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Talks were held in Tehran this morning between Iranian and Iraqi political delegations. According to the Central News Unit, at these talks, which were attended by a deputy foreign minister from our country and the Iraqi deputy foreign minister, the two sides stressed the importance of following up the outstanding issues relating to Security Council Resolution 598.

At the talks between the Iranian and Iraqi delegations, regional developments and Middle East issues were also discussed. The report states that, at the end of the talks, working groups on the search for bodies [of soldiers killed in the Iran-Iraq war] and on prisoners of war and those missing in action began their preparatory work.

Iraqi Delegation's 'Significant' Visit Viewed

LD1109125395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 11 Sep 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iraqi acting Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal on Sunday September 10 arrived in Iran at the head of a top-ranking delegation.

According to the two countries' officials in the meeting of the Iraqi acting foreign minister with Iranian officials, bilateral relations and the follow up of the issues related to the UN Security Council Resolution 598 will be discussed.

Political analysts with regards to the regional situation, evaluate the trip of the Iraqi delegation to Tehran as significant. Late May an Iranian team visited Iraq to resolve the differences. The two sides then agreed to continue the talks in future. Presently, Iraqi delegation's visit to Tehran has provided the opportunity to discuss mutual issues including the problem on the way of full implementation of the Resolution 598.

Complete enforcement of the Resolution 598 with which the war between Iran and Iraq came into an end contains various issues. For instance Article Eight of the resolution calls on the UN secretary general to have consultations with Iran and Iraq and other regional states to investigate security and stability situation in the region.

Based on Article Eight of the resolution all countries including Iraq should take part in the collective efforts in the region for security. Due to this, the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, despite criticizing Iraq for its performance during Iran-Iraq war, have tried to enhance the relations through talks. There is no doubt that only under the light of mutual trust between the regional states, peace and tranquillity in the region can be guaranteed. In this regard Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani at a meeting with Kuwaiti foreign minister pointed out if regional countries disregard the enemies' insinuations, be reasonable and stick to principles of Islamic unity and consider the interests of the regional people, then the aliens would no be able to take advantage of the situation and interfere in the affairs.

Meanwhile, it is expected that the trip of Iraqi delegation to Tehran and the dialogue between the officials of the two states could promote the ties between Tehran and Baghdad. To achieve this, under the present sensitive juncture, more than anything else, there is a need for trust and understanding between the neighboring countries.

Kuwaiti Minister Pays Official Visit to Tehran

Arrives, Outlines Aim of Visit

LD1009121495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0930 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al Sabah arrived in Tehran at the head of a high-ranking political delegation at midday today. He was welcomed by Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati.

Upon his arrival in Tehran, the Kuwaiti foreign minister spoke to our correspondent expressing satisfaction about the improvement of ties between Iran and Kuwait, and he said that the aim of his visit is to submit a special message from the Kuwaiti amir to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He added: Recent regional events and fresh developments in Iraq require that we cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran and become informed of its viewpoints. Therefore, we will try to discuss regional developments on top of reviewing the two countries' relations. Mr. Besharati, the minister of interior, also stressed that important regional issues should be discussed with the neighboring countries and he said: In our meetings with the Kuwaiti officials we will discuss various issues, particularly issues concerning Iraq and the outcome of the tripartite meeting of Iran, Turkey, and Syria [held in Tehran on 8 September].

Holds Talks With Besharati

LD1009155095 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1447 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tehran — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister met with 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, Iranian interior minister, to discuss bilateral relations and the latest development in the Gulf arena. Sources close to the approximately hour long meeting said that Shaykh Sabah praised the positive stances of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the crisis of the trecherous Iraqi aggression on the state of Kuwait and Iran's continous support and backing for the Kuwaiti right against the ambitions of the Baghdad regime.

Both sides expressed their utmost satisfaction with the progress in relations between the two neighborly countries and stressed their definite wishes to push these links forward in all spheres in the interest of the two friendly peoples. The sources said that the two sides studied the latest regional development, concentrating on the development in the region following the defection last month of General Husayn Kamil, the Iraqi minister of industry and military industrlization and some of his aides to Jordan.

The sources added that Minister Besharati reviewed his country's stances vis-a-vis the importance of Iraq's total compliance with the UN Security Council resolutions relevant to its aggression on the state of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sabah is scheduled to meet this evening with the Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to deliver to him a letter from the amir of the state of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad in connection with the regional development. [passage omitted]

Comments on Iraq Territorial Integrity

LD1009180695 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kuwaiti foreign minister today met Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati and called for the expansion of relations between the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council member states and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah praised Iran for its stance during the occupation of Kuwait, and said: Expansion of Iran-Kuwait ties will also have a positive effect on relations between the other countries of the region.

He added: We want Iraq's territorial integrity to be preserved.

Besharati, in turn, stressed the need for the expansion of relations between the two countries. Furthermore, he said the presence of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf had led to tension in the region.

Delivers Amir Message to President

LD1009203895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the visiting Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who is carrying a written message from the Kuwaiti amir to the Islamic Republic of Iran's president.

In the meeting, the Kuwaiti foreign minister said his visit was aimed at gaining greater familiarity with the viewpoints of Iranian officials on current developments in the region.

He said: Kuwait has full confidence in the political wisdom of its Muslim brothers in Iran regarding international and regional issues and wants to benefit more from Iran's views on regional issues.

He also submitted a report to the president on the latest regional development. He said: Kuwait is concerned about these developments, as it considers them to be contrary to the interests of the regional countries.

He added: We are against the partition of Iraq and the violation of its territorial integrity. On this issue, we support the principled stances of the region's progressive countries, such as Iran and Syria

He said: The existing problems in the region can only be resolved through understanding and trust between the regional countries.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister also expressed his country's willingness to expand its relations further with Iran.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in turn, expressed satisfaction at the present state of relations between Iran and Kuwait. He said: If the countries of the region ignore the provocations of the enemies and their lackeys and try to deal with the existing issues and problems in a rational and logical manner, finally basing their decisionmaking process on the principles of Islamic unity and consideration for the interests of the people of the region, then the foreigners will not have any opportunity to interfere in their internal affairs.

The president then stressed Iran's resolve to help its neighboring countries in the Persian Gulf with the aim of providing a logical solution to the existing problems and enhancing healthy regional cooperation based on mutual respect and common interests.

Meets With Majles Speaker

LD1109104295 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri today met Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah and said: On the pretext of confronting the Iraqi threat, the United States has deployed a vast volume of its military forces at the Persian Gulf, and the presence of these forces disrupts the tranquillity of the region.

Referring to the developments in Iraq, he added that the Islamic Republic of Iran was in favor of a government in Iraq that conforms with the will of that country's people.

Departs After 'Constructive' Talks

LD1109125695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Tehran this morning and was seen off by Interior Minister Besharati.

At Mehrabad airport, the Kuwaiti foreign minister described his talks with the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran as positive and constructive. He said that current regional and international developments and issues were discussed and emphasis was placed on the expansion and consolidation of ties between the two countries.

Mr. Besharati described the two-day visit paid by the Kuwaiti foreign minister to Tehran as beneficial for the consolidation of ties between the two countries.

English Daily Views Kuwaiti 'Illogical' Stands

LD1109135495 Tehran IRNA in English 1320 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 11, IRNA — Contrary to the "illogical and unreasonable" stands of Kuwait, Iran always supported the shaykhdom and tried to maintain friendly relations with its neighbor, a morning daily wrote Monday [11 September].

Referring to the visit of Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah to Iran, the English-language IRAN NEWS added, "Iran was the first country to recognize the former British colony when it gained independence in 1961."

Despite hectic diplomatic efforts by Iran to keep Kuwait at least neutral in the 1980-1988 war, it stressed, Kuwait granted land, air and port facilities along with huge sums of money to the Baghdad regime and further continued its anti-Iranian and pro-Iraqi policy which definitely indicated the short-sightedness of its foreign policy.

"Observers here believe that Kuwait adopted a hostile attitude towards Iran, worse than any of its co-members in the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council which also groups Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman," the editorial underlined.

Iran's tolerance continued throughout the Iraqi aggression and its subsequent occupation of Kuwait in 1990, it said adding, in this regional conflict, Iran formally condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and appealed to Baghdad to withdraw its forces from its neighbor's territory.

"Following the Iraqi invasion, the Islamic Republic, again, formally and openly gave its full support to Kuwait and welcomed the influx of refugees from that war-torn country," it noted.

Commenting on dispatch of Kuwaiti planes to Iran by the Iraqi regime, the article said after the war, the Islamic Republic complied with the Kuwaiti request for the return of its planes.

"Observers here believe that Kuwait blindly follows the dictates of the United States without taking its own national interests into consideration," it reiterated.

Kuwait is an ally of the United States, but it is not America's only ally, it said adding, there are countries such as Pakistan and Turkey who are close allies of Washington, but are enjoying friendly ties with Iran.

The paper stressed that Kuwait should note that except Iran, all its close neighbors have border disputes with it and have territorial claims on it.

It concluded by asking, "under these circumstances is it not wise for the tiny shaykhdom to adopt a reasonable and rational policy towards Iran?"

UN Urged To Prevent Further French Nuclear Tests

LD0809224095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 8 Sep 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] One day after France conducted the first of its nuclear tests in the Mururoa Islands the Tahitians took to the streets on September 7, setting fire to governmental and public places. Incoming reports indicate that owing to the people's anger and rage toward France nuclear tests the control of Tahitian capital, Papeete, which is still under French colonies rule, has run out of the hand of security forces.

It is to be noted that the resumption of nuclear tests by France has unleashed massive waves of protest worldwide. Antinuclear groups are continuously voicing concern over the devastating aftermath of such tests. The French Government, in a bid to calm down the rising waves of opposition and protest, has announced that the tests will have no negative impact. Despite this, political observers express reservations over the French officials' remarks, for they hold that if such tests are really free from devastating impacts then why doesn't France conduct the tests along its own coasts? This comes at at time when France, through conducting nuclear tests, is violating the commitments it undertook during the session over the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] in May. A recent measure beside having its own environmental repercussions for further step up of already close competition racing among different countries over the production of nuclear weapons putting the breakthroughs achieved on a nuclear disarmament at risk. [sentence as heard]

A number of observers believe that such moves could flare up the already high fever over expanding nuclear might and give rise to the tendency of nuclear powers policy of creating terror and intimidation. Massive protests by all walks of life throughout the world over the French Government's resumption of nuclear tests indicate that a sense of awareness exists throughout the world over such tests as well as the wide politico-economic consequences they will have as a result of sparking off widescale nuclear rivalries. The widescale protests taking place in most of the South Pacific and most other countries are in fact indicative of the people's desire to make France and other nuclear powers implement the provisions of the NPT.

Amid all this, it is incumbent upon international organizations, among them the United Nations, to take serious measures to head off further nuclear tests.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets New Envoy to Uzbekistan

LD0709151895 Tehran IRNA in English 1446 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sep 7 (IRNA) — Iran's new Ambassador to Uzbekistan Mohsen Pakaeen on Thursday [7 September] met with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani before his departure for the country of his assignment.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani offered the necessary guidelines on the issues raised at the meeting.

Foreign Minister Velayati Departs for Turkmenistan

LD0909142795 Tehran IRNA in English 1413 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sep 9 (IRNA) — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left here for Ashgabat on Saturday [9 September], heading an economic and political delegation.

The second ministerial meeting of Iran, Turkmenistan and Ukraine is expected to be held in Ashgabat tomorrow to explore avenues for economic cooperation among the three states.

The first ministerial meeting of the three countries was held last March, with an agreement being reached on exchange of goods and services and supply of Turkmen gas to Ukraine.

According to the agreement, Turkmenistan will supply gas to Ukraine and Ukraine will supply goods to Iran in return. Iran will also provide Turkmenistan with Iranian made products.

Intelligence Ministry's Work Against 'Plots' Hailed

LD1009123095 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Yazdi, head of judiciary, addressed a gathering of the directors general and departmental heads of the Information Ministry, said: Despite the extensive internal and external plots by world arrogance and international Zionism, the Islamic Republic of Iran is today enjoying rare stability and security compared with other states.

Ayatollah Yazdi considered the stability and sovereignty of the government in domestic and international arenas to result from the efforts of the loyal and self-sacrificing forces of the system — including the unknown soldeirs of the Lord of the Age, May God hasten his hoble advent, and he said: The successful experience of the Islamic Republic system, led by the supreme jurisconcult as the mainstay of the system, are the most crucial signs of sovereignty and power of a religious government to manage the world.

The head of the judiciary considered the intelligence, adroitness, and swift action of the Intelligence Ministry forces in uncovering and neutralizing the plots of the sworn enemies of the Islamic Republic system as an indication of the strength and power of the Intelligence Ministry. He stressed the need for more coordination between the judiciary system and the Intelligence Ministry to safeguard the achievements of the Islamic Republic system.

Nepal

Communist Party Decides To Face No-Confidence Vote

BK0709011695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The crisis in Nepal appears to have blown over, with the ruling Communist Party of Nepal—UML [United Marxist-Leninist]—deciding to face the vote of no confidence in Parliament and sit in the opposition if they lose. Talking to newsmen in Kathmandu after the parliamentary party meeting, the party general secretary and deputy prime minister, Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, said they may differ with the Supreme Court verdict but will respect it and uphold constitutional norms and values.

Meanwhile, the prime minister, Mr. Mana Mohan Adhikari, who is convalescing in a hospital, has again requested the speaker to postpone voting on the no-confidence motion, as he would like to reply to the debate personally as soon as he is able to do so.

Our Kathmandu correspondent reports that voting on the motion is slated for Saturday [9 September] after two days of debate.

Tension Defused on Adhikari No-Confidence Motion

BK0909091895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Nepal, tension has been defused following an agreement between the opposition and the ruling party that the voting on the no-confidence motion will take place tomorrow after the prime minister's reply to the no-confidence debate from his hospital bed. The lower house of parliament assembled in Kathmandu this afternoon after a delay of more than two and half hours following a meeting of the business advisory committee this morning. The speaker, Mr. Ram Chandra Podial, announced in the house that the prime minister's reply will be telecast and will also be tabled in the house tomorrow afternoon. Later, the motion will be put to vote. AIR Kathmandu correspondent reports that leaders of various opposition parties have welcomed this amicable solution to the political impasse. Talking to our correspondent, the deputy correspondent, Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, said he will inform about the decision of the house to the prime minister in the hospital and make arrangements for recording of his reply to the debate on the no-confidence motion.

Reportage, Results of No-Confidence Vote

Communist Government Loses

LD1109064195 Kathmandu Radio Nepal in English 1415 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The speaker of the House of Representatives has made a submission to His Majesty the King that the vote of no confidence presented by the leader of the opposition party, Sher Bahadur Deuba, against Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari, has been passed with a majority at today's session of the House of Representatives. His Majesty the King has, in accordance with the Constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal, 1990, accepted the resignation submitted to His Majesty by Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari following the vote of no confidence passed against his government in parliament today. His Majesty has further asked the prime minister and the present council of ministers to continue to work until the formation of a new council of ministers. [passage omitted]

The government of the Communist Party of Nepal — Unified Marxist-Leninist [CPM-UML], headed by Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari lost a vote of confidence which was tabled by the parliamentary leader of the main opposition Nepali Congress, Sher Bahadur Deuba. Declaring the result of the no-confidence motion, Speaker of the House of Representatives Ram Chandra Poudel announced that 107 voted in favor of the motion and 88 against. The CPM-UML government came to power on 30 November 1994.

Replying to the debate on the motion from his hospital bed at the Jagwan University Teaching Hospital, Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari vehemently rejected all the accusations made against his government as baseless and prejudiced. He said the opposition had brought the motion of no confidence against his government despite its working for the upliftment of the weaker sections of society and the betterment of the nation and claimed his party had gained the confidence and support of the nation. [Words indistinct]

The first portion of his written reply was read out by the prime minister, while the remaining portion was read out by Deputy Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal.

Speaker of the House of Representatives Ram Chandra Poudel said today that the events marking the passage of the no-confidence motion against the prime minister in the House had set a good example for the consolidation of democracy and its progress in Nepal. Speaker Poudel made this remark after the announcement of the result of the vote of no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari at the special session of the House today. Speaker Poudel said that the peaceful transfer of power is one of the most (?beautiful acts of a) democracy, adding [that] today various political parties and political forces in Nepal had successfully gone through this process in a very cordial and peaceful manner. He added: the most important thing is that democracy in Nepal today has shown its maturity, no matter which side may be favored by the result.

Opposition To Form New Government

BK1009120995 Hong Kong AFP in English 1156 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KATHMANDU, Sept 10 (AFP)—Nepal's minority communist government fell on Sunday [10 September] and the opposition was expected to form a new government within 24 hours, state television and radio reported.

The Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) government lost a vote of censure in the house of representatives by 107 votes to 88.

The Nepali Congress, the right wing Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP), the small Nepal Sadvhavana Party (NSP) and independents all voted against the 10-month old government.

"It was a peaceful transfer of power by the NCP-UML and the new cabinet headed by (Congress leader Sher Bahadur) Deuba will be sworn in Monday," a parliamentary official said.

The vote was held after the supreme court ruled last month that King Birendra had been wrong to dissolve parliament and call new elections for November in accordance with a request from Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari, a veteran communist.

Adhikari said before the vote he would resign if defeated. The communists were the largest single party after elections last November but with 88 seats in the 205-member house could only pass legislation with opposition backing.

"Today's successful democratic transfer of power has further consolidated Nepal's parliamentary process," speaker Ram Chandra Paudyel said after announcing the result.

On Sunday evening he is scheduled to write to the King to tell him formally of the NCP-UML's defeat.

The parliamentary vote had been scheduled for Saturday but was postponed a day after the NCP-UML asked that Adhikari be allowed more time to prepare his defence.

He has been in hospital after breaking his shoulder in a helicopter crash last month and his speech was broadcast live on state radio and television from his hospital bed on Sunday afternoon.

"The NCP-UML government has never done anything that diminished the dignity of parliament—it is surprising that some people are saying the government has weakened the legislature," Adhikari said.

"That people used to tyranny seek to teach democracy is ridiculous," he added.

Adhikari had earlier said he would accept the result of the vote and denied his government had failed to control corruption, control market prices, mend the country's economy and maintain law and order.

"In fact, during our rule, law and order were very good," he said.

"Revenue has increased and exports have increased by 8.5 per cent," the premier said. He accused the opposition of making false allegations about the government to try to cover up its own mistakes.

The supreme court on August 28 ruled King Birendra's dissolution of paliament in June was unconstitutional and reinstated the house.

Prime Minister Resigns After Defeat

BK1009140195 Hong Kong AFP in English 1344 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KATHMANDU, Sept 10 (AFP)—Nepal's prime minister Mana Mohan Adhikari Sunday [10 September] evening tendered his resignation to King Birendra following his communist party's loss of a parliamentary no-confidence motion, state-run radio announced.

The king accepted Adhikari's resignation and asked him to continue in office until a new government could be formed, the radio said quoting a royal palace press communique.

The Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) minority government Sunday afternoon lost the no-confidence motion tabled by the main opposition Nepali Congress (NC) leader Sher Bahadur Deuba at the house of representatives.

Altogether 107 MPs of the NC, the rightist Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP), the pro-India Nepal Sadvhavana Party (NSP) and independents voted against the communist government, ending its ten- month-old rule.

The communist party had won only 88 votes.

Pakistan

Editorial Urges Continued Advancement of U.S. Ties

BK0109110495 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 1 Sep 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Sustaining the Momentum"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The outgoing US Ambassador, Mr. John C. Monjo, has said that Pakistan is a very important country for the United States and the existing friendly ties between the two countries will be further strengthened. Talking to newsmen at Quetta, he observed that during his tenure in Islamabad he had striven hard to further improve Pak-US relations. Mr. Monjo said Pakistan had bright prospects for democracy which was the best political system for any country and as such it should flourish and take root. As pointed out by Mr. Monjo, Pak-US ties have seen major improvements during his ambassadorship, unfreezing a situation that was threatening to worsen following the imposition of Pressler sanctions.

The single most important breakthrough that took place during Mr. Monjo's tenure and which underlined a reversal in the steadily cooling ties was Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to Washington at the invitation of President Bill Clinton. The current Brown initiative in the US Congress in fact owes itself essentially to her forceful advocacy of Pakistan's case at various forums during her stay in the US. This helped evolve a sizable consensus among both the Republicans and the Democrats in the Congress on the counter- productivity of the Pressler law and the regional power imbalance it has generated through its lop-sided approach. Further, MoUs worth billions of dollars were signed during the Prime Minister's visit and measures were initiated by the Clinton Administration for releasing the held-up defence spares. Moves are now afoot to ensure refund of the money paid by Islamabad for the purchase of F-16 aircraft and waiving the storage charges. Revival of the defence consultative group has been another plus for the Pak-US ties. A closer coordination has been established between the two countries to counter the threat posed by narcotics trade and terrorism. A number of powerful drug barons have since been extradited to the United States in addition to the main suspect in the World Trade Centre bombing case. Much of the credit for these achievements should go to Mr. Monjo. However, it must be pointed out here that further efforts will have to be made to remove the remaining traces of past suspicious and misunderstandings between the two countries which New Delhi tries to fuel through an unremitting barrage of baseless propaganda against Pakistan's modest energy-oriented, nuclear programme.

It is hoped that the new momentum in Pak-US relations will continue and the good word done by Mr. Monjo will be further built upon by his successor.

Islamabad Welcomes Geneva Agreement on Bosnia

BK0909101095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0900 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the United Nations, Pakistan has welcomed the agreement on basic principles, under which Bosnia remains a single country within its current international boundary but with two separate entities. The agreement was reached among the concerned parties at the talks in Geneva.

Participating in the general debate of the UN Security Council on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Pakistan's Permanent Representative Ahmad Kamal pointed out that much bloodshed could have been avoided if strong military action had been taken against the Serb aggressors earlier. He hoped that the UN and NATO action against the Serbs will continue to ensure a durable political settlement.

The Security Council meeting was held at short notice after the signing in Geneva of the principles agreed to about Bosnia. In addition to the Pakistani envoy, the permanent representatives of Turkey and Egypt addressed the meeting on behalf of the Islamic countries.

Iranian Envoy Meets Deputy Foreign Minister

LD1009125595 Tehran IRNA in English 1018 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sep IRNA — Countries neighboring Afghanistan should exert utmost efforts to restore peace in the war-torn country, said Mahmud Akhondzadeh, Iranian ambassador to Islamabad.

The Iranian envoy in a meeting with Pakistan: Deputy Foreign Minister Najmuddin Sheikh, said Iran's stance on Afghanistan is impartial, based on the Islamic and humanitarian principles.

Lack of security in Afghanistan and inter-group conflicts in the country is against the Islamic brotherhood and will persuade foreign powers to intervene which may harm all the neighboring countries, Akhoundzadeh remarked.

Calling the current situation in Afghanistan as complicated and unstable, the Pakistani official regretted that in recent inter-group clashes the Pakistani embassy was demolished and one of its staffers was killed while others were hospitalized in Islamabad.

Officials Review Security, Attack on Aghan Embassy

BK0909153995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto met with President Sardar Farooq Ahmad Leghari in Islamabad today. Chief of Army Staff General Abdul Waheed was also present at the meeting. They reviewed the security situation, with special reference to the attack on the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul on Wednesday [6 September].

The chief of the army staff briefed the president and the prime minister on his visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, also present on the occasion, briefed the president and the prime minister on his recent visit to foreign countries.

Bhutto Says Afghan Ties To Remain Intact

BK1009084895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said Pakistan will not break its relations with Kabul government but will shift its embassy from the Afghan capital to some safe place in the wake of ransacking of its embassy building and causing grievous injuries to Pakistani diplomats and other staff members last week in Kabul. She was talking to newsmen at the Combined Military Hospital in Rawalpindi this morning, where she had gone to inquire about the welfare of those Pakistani diplomats and staff members who suffered injuries during the attack. The prime minister said Pakistan owed no grudge to their Afghan brethren despite this unfortunate episode, which was handiwork of some Afghan groups who wanted to provoke Pakistan for giving up its neutrality in the wake of this grave provocation.

The prime minister reiterated Pakistan's strong ties with the people of Afghanistan and said she was glad to note that the people of Pakistan did not react violently following the provocation shown by a group of Afghans, which was against brotherly ties between the two countries. She recollected that it was due to sacrifices offered by Pakistanis, together with their Afghan brethren, that aggression was vacated from the soil of Afghanistan and that brotherly country regained its independence.

Further on Bhutto Remarks

BK1009140795 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has expressed shock over the attack on the Pakistan

Embassy in Kabul and said it is a deliberate attempt to provoke Pakistan to abandon its policy of neutrality. She was talking to newsmen in the CMH [Combined Military Hospital], Rawalpindi, today.

[Begin Bhutto recording] This wanton and criminal act was carried out in the heart of Kabul with no response. In fact, there are preliminary reports that some of the guards that were sent there to protect the embassy actually took part in this act. We in Pakistan feel that this is a deliberate act to provoke Pakistan to abandon its policy of neutrality and to come out on the side of certain groups. We do not wish to be provoked, and that is why we have been restrained; but, in the most forthright words, we have conveyed our displeasure over this incident, and I believe the Afghan Government has expressed its regret. In the past when our embassy was attacked, I did not wish to see it reopened in Kabul. It was only on the assurances of President Rabbani that we reopened our embassy; but I would like to say once again that we have 22 million Afghans still on our soils. We are looking after them, and we will continue to consider all Afghans as our brothers. We will not let a handful of mischief makers who want to spoil relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan succeed in their evil designs. [end recording]

Earlier, the prime minister visited Pakistan Ambassador Qazi Humayun and other officials who were wounded during the attack on the Pakistan Embassy. The prime minister told the diplomat that she has advised the Foreign Ministry not to reopen Pakistan's mission in Kabul, where there is a total breakdown of law and order. She said we are looking for a safer place in Afghanistan for reopening of our embassy. She said we have relations with the Afghan people, which would be kept intact in all circumstances. There were a handful of mischief makers who had tried to spoil relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan did not want to involve itself in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali and Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Sheikh accompanied the prime minister during the visit.

Government Not To 'Overreact' to Embassy Attack

BK1009091295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has said Pakistan will not overreact to the recent savage attack on its embassy in Kabul. He said this while talking to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN after visiting Pakistani Ambassador to Kabul Qazi Humayun and the others injured in the attack at the Combined Military Hospital in Rawalpindi yesterday. The foreign minister said the attack on the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was against the Vienna Convention, and no such incident has ever taken place anywhere in the world. He said the people of Afghanistan themselves have condemned this attack. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali conveyed the sympathies of the prime minister to the victims of the attack. Retired Major General Khurshid Ali Khan, governor of the North-West Frontier Province, also visited Qazi Humayun and the other injured embassy officials in the hospital.

Minister Details Government Demands

BK1009144195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has demanded of the Kabul regime to offer an unconditional apology to the Government and people of Pakistan over the burning and ransacking of its embassy in Kabul and ensure complete restitution and compensation for human and material losses. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon, the Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said, until these two demands are met, Pakistan would not even consider the question of reopening of the embassy. He said that Pakistani consulates in Jalalabad, Herat, Mazar-e Sharif, and Qandahar would continue to function and, if necessary, Pakistan would consider relocating its embassy.

He said Pakistan has decided not to retaliate in any way against Afghans, as it is for the Afghan people to decide who their friends and foes are. He said this was not an act for which Afghan people are held responsible, but emphasized that Pakistan would not forget or forgive those people who were responsible for this horrible incident.

Kashmiris Blame Indian RAW for Bomb Blast

BK0809115395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In occupied Kashmir, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference has strongly condemned the parcel bomb blast in the BBC office in Srinagar. In a statement, the chairman of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Mirwaiz Omar Farooq, has said that none but only the RAW [Research and Analysis Wing] agents could resort to such an act which was aimed at advancing the Indian designs to distort the fair image of freedom fighters. He said the journalist community in Kashmir was held in high esteem by the struggling Kashmiri people for its vital role in keeping the world apprised of Indian brutalities in Indian-held Kashmir.

Meanwhile, the political observers in Srinagar said that BBC office was located in the highest security zone where security precautions were further tightened after the bomb blast last Monday, in which eight troops were killed. They, therefore, said only RAW agents, like the notorious (Kokapre) group, could operate in this area.

Explosion Reported in Hyderbad Altaf Group Office

BK0909163695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to a press note issued in Karachi, two people, including a police constable, were killed and another was injured in different firing incidents in the city today.

A press note issued by the district magistrate of Hyderabad this evening says an explosion occurred in a (?central) office of Altaf Group in the city. The explosion occurred due to the explosive and other subversive material which were stored inside the office. The press note said three terrorists of Altaf Group were inside the building at the time of the explosion. One Zahid Ali died on the spot, whereas two others sustained injuries.

Participants Comment on Karachi Peace Talks

BK0709124795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The seventh round of talks between the government and [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] Altaf Group on restoration of peace was held in Karachi today. The government team was led by the federal law minister, Professor N.D. Khan, while the Altaf Group team was headed by Mr. Ajmal Dehlvi. The next round of talks between the two sides will be held in Islamabad on Wednesday [6 September] morning.

Later, talking to newsmen, the chief government negotiator described today's session as very positive and fruitful. He said the two sides discussed comprehensively the situation prevalent in the city and decided to make silent efforts to free the situation from tension. He said both sides also developed the faculty of understanding and realizing each other's difficulties and limitations. He said as a result of their deliberations and efforts, the two sides have come closer and have developed understanding to move ahead toward a political accord. He hoped that the next session would be more fruitful.

Talking to newsmen, the leader of the Altaf Group negotiating team, Mr. Ajmal Dehlvi, described today's talks as delicate. He said an understanding emerged with the government committee that we would discuss each other's basic points in the next session. He said efforts will be made to maintain the law and order situation in the city and no incident may occur which increases tension.

Government-MQM Talks End on Positive Note

BK0809102195 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 8 Sep 95 pp 1, 9

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi — Following a sour sixth round held last Sunday [10 September], the government and MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] teams emerged from Thursday's seventh round of talks with some clear-sounding commitments.

"We will try to avoid a situation which may heighten tension and damage the mutual confidence we have built so far", Ajmal Dehlavi, MQM(A)'s chief negotiator, told a joint press briefing at the Governor House on Thursday.

To a question, Dehlavi said that there was no chance of another strike call unless a "highly cruel" (Intehai hadd tak zalimana) step was taken by the government.

Contrary to expectations voiced by some observers that the situation in Punjab might force the government on the back-foot vis- a-vis the MQM, the government's chief negotiator, Prof ND Khan, put up an aggressive front.

"Peace in Karachi has been our common concern, and a positive development in today's talks has been the emphasis that nothing which causes tension should be allowed to happen", he told newsmen at the joint briefing.

It could not be ascertained, however, if the official team had promised any specific benefits in return for this. Dehlavi as well as Khan did not stay behind long enough to answer all the newsmen's questions, while sources contacted for comments were tight-lipped about the issue.

In the joint briefing, Khan made an oblique reference to MQM(A)'s strike of September 4, saying, "we have comprehensively discussed the situation of the past few days, and have resolved to make a silent effort for peace rather than seeking projection". He said he hoped Dehlavi would not address a separate press conference after the briefing.

Dehlavi, who did not hold a separate press conference on Thursday, termed the seventh round of talks as "sensitive", marked with "some ups and downs", but that "an understanding (Mufahimat) has been reached".

The eighth round, which ND Khan expects to be a long drawn one, is to begin in Islamabad at 10 am on September 13. "We will embark upon the positive exercise of taking up 18 points (of MQM) versus 21 points (of the government)", Khan said.

A source close to the ongoing process of negotiations said the government team made clear in Thursday's talks that strikes could only affect MQM's own consituency.

The source recalled that Dehlavi was on record having said that the MQM could deliver peace in Karachi, and that he was reminded of it during the meeting. "He has promised to cooperate", the source added.

It may be recalled that the sixth round of talks held last Sunday (September 3) had ended on a disconcerting note due to a strike call given by MQM(A) for September 4. The call came as an anti-climax to the progress which both sides had admitted to have made in the 5th round of talks held on August 29-30.

"They will begin in Islamabad from square one", said an observer of the two teams, adding that the agenda which shaped up in the faith round and was to be taken up in the sixth, would now have to wait until the eighth round in Islamabad.

According to sources, the parleys in Islamabad will revolve around the seven points of MQM, which were shortlisted from an earlier list of 18. Government's 10 shortlisted points may also come up for discussion in that round.

An MQM source hoped that talks at Islamabad would finally come down to a point-by-point discussion of MQM's demands. It accused the government team of having wasted too much time in the preceding rounds of parleys.

National Unity Government Urged for Azad Kashmir

95AS0473C Karachi AKHBAR-E-JEHAN in Urdu 30 Jul 95 p 15

[Article by Khawaja Abdul Rashid: "Will There be a National Government in Azad Kashmir?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sikandar Hyat Khan, president of Azad Kashmir, has been suggesting forming a national government in Azad Kashmir for a long time. He also explains the benefits of his recommendation and its importance in the light of the independence struggle in Kashmir.

Now, however, he has offered to relinquish his position as the president in support of this recommendation. He says that anyone's personal opposition to the national government is not appropriate since it is the need of the time. Before offering this recommendation, he met with President Farooq Ahmed Leghari in Islamabad and discussed the Kashmiri independence movement and politics in Azad Kashmir. The politics in Azad Kashmir appeared to become more active after this meeting. President Sikandar Hyat Khan demanded from the federal government in a newspaper interview to take steps in establishing a new government in Azad Kashmir so that all political parties are united on one platform and strengthen the concept of Kashmir's ideal status. He did not explain what he meant by new administrative structure or its format. However, the political circles in Azad Kashmir do not have any problem in understanding the structure of new government. A new problem has arisen during this time. The joint meeting of the legislative assembly and the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council to discuss amendment in Azad Kashmir's constitution that was called for 15 July has been postponed to 25 August by the Azad Kashmir president. The president of Azad Kashmir reasoned that it is necessary to call the joint council meeting within 14 days after the assembly or the council has accepted the constitutional amendment documents. However, there are no restrictions on when the meeting should be called. If such time-line was imposed and the meeting was required to be held within specific time, the constitution must have explained that just like there are explanations of other areas. For example, after the assembly passes a bill, the president has to approve within seven days. If this is not done, a law is considered approved after seven days. However, the article about joint session states that after documents are introduced in the legislative assembly, a meeting must be called within 14 days after that. Prime Minister Sardar Abdulqayum Khan does not agree with this reasoning. In his opinion, this article of the constitution calls for the joint session within 14 days after the amendment document is introduced in the assembly. This rule is followed all over the world. Sardar Qayum said that the president of Azad Kashmir announced daily that he is the guardian of the constitution, but he has openly violated the constitution by not having the join session within the required time. If Azad Kashmir's president's definition is accepted, we still need to amend the constitution. Sardar Abdul Rashid Abbasi, speaker of the legislative assembly, said that a similar situation occurred in 1985 when the opposition had requested calling a session of the assembly. At that time, it was discussed whether it was necessary to issue order to call the requested session within 14 days or should be session just be held. Thus there is no difference whether the session is held on 25 August or 15 July since the constitutional amendment is not urgent. In addition, there will no constitutional crisis in Azad Kashmir because of this delay. The constitution has the provision of adoption to file reference in the Supreme Court and ask for guidance. However, it was not considered necessary to file any reference in the Supreme Court this time. President Sardar Sikandar Hyat also said that the present constitutional amendments need to be reviewed. The appointment of Sharia Court judges and their retirement issue needs to be reviewed since these are in contradiction to the rules applied to High Court judges. The proposed amendments do not clarify as to who will appoint Sharia Court judges and to whom will they report. Similarly, other amendments also need to be fully reviewed.

In addition to the difference of opinion on holding the joint session of the assembly and the council, the president and the prime minister appear to have differences over other issues also. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto wrote a letter to the president of Azad Kashmir recently in which she had discussed some issues related to Azad Kashmir's administration. The president of Azad Kashmir had sent this letter to Sardar Abdulqayum Khan so that he could explain the actual situation to the prime minister of Pakistan. We have now learned that Prime Minister Sardar Abdulqayum Khan has written a letter to Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan in which he had expressed his anger and distress and asked why had he sent Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's letter to him. Under which article of the constitution did the president do that? Who gave such responsibility to the president? Sardar Sikander Hyat Khan is going to respond to this letter. He said that he had sent Pakistan's prime minister's letter to Sardar Abdulqayum in "good will" and to clarify the situation and has acted only as a postman in this incident. Last March, he had written a two-page letter to Sardar Qayum himself and has not received response to it yet. Thus, these two major leaders of Azad Kashmir have strongly opposed each other over two issue. It seems that Azad Kashmir government is facing opposition within its own ranks while the opposition and other parties have adopted the policy of staying out of such skirmishes.

As mentioned in the beginning of this article, Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan has initiated the idea of establishing a national government in Azad Kashmir and has promised to relinquish his position as the president if this idea is considered important. In addition, most of the Azad Kashmir political parties have expressed support for this proposal. Prime Minister Sardar Abdulqayum Khan has strongly opposed this idea and has responded by demanding a referendum over the idea of having a national government. He said that it is strange that this condition is being laid for the movement to liberate Kashmir that first a national government be established. Twenty-seven or twenty-eight political parties have to be authorized so that they can work for the movement for independence. What will they achieve that they will brag about? He believes that the parliamentary system in Azad Kashmir will be destroyed and the people will lose their right to vote if a national government is established here.

It is not clear whether a national government will be established or not. All this debate is limited to statements in newspapers, talks between the two, and speeches. It does not exist as a formal proposal or in a specific forum. However, as an aside to it, political circles are more are more concerned about the fear that is being expressed about the efforts to unsettle Sardar Abdulqayum and make political changes in Azad Kashmir. Sardar Abdulqayum Khan is not unaware of it. He discusses such political tactics while sitting in Kashmir House in Islamabad. He is very adroitly using the lobby he has formed of national political leaders and circles close to the federal government for this purpose.

Meanwhile, the opposition party, the Pakistan People's Party, is also pushing for general elections in Azad Kashmir during this year.

Reportage on Leghari Visit to Turkmenistan

WA1109144895

For reportage on the visit by President Leghari to Turkmenistan, please see the Turkmenistan section of the 7 September Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

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